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PAPER REPORTS EFFORTS TO SOLVE MIZORAM'S PROBLEMS

Support of Sailo

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 May 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] The Centre is not willing to ditch Mizoram Chief Minister Brig T. Sailo as a condition for reaching an agreement with Mizo National Front leader Laldenga.

Brig Sailo returned to Mizoram on Monday after long talks with Union Home Minister Zail Singh during which he briefed the Centre on the political situation in the Union Territory and his own reactions to the developments that have taken place following Mr Laldenga's discussions earlier this month with Mr Zail Singh.

The Centre feels it will not be proper to sacrifice Brig Sailo for a peace with Mr Laldenga. On the other hand, it is keen that Mr Laldenga makes his peace with Brig Sailo and the two together work for the uplift of the border State.

Mr Laldenga, in his previous talks with the Centre, has presented a political document that in affect calls for full statehood for Mizoram, to be followed by a dissolution of the Assembly and fresh elections in which he expects his group to come to power. Brig Sailo has no place in this scheme of things, and the Chief Minister is not keen to be relegated to second place after his services to the State and the Centre.

The Centre agrees with him and feels it cannot turn a blind eye to the fact that while others had taken to the path of insurgency and violence, Brig Sailo kept the State firmly on the path of democracy and peace. He should not be 'punished' for this loyalty.

Sources at the Centre also point out that even though it is committed to finding peaceful solutions to the issues of the north-east, including Mizoram, and is keen that the youth join the national mainstream shedding their underground activities, it should not lead anyone to presume that the Centre is weakening.

It is just that the Centre does not want to aggravate the acrimony by an afford to totally contain underground activity under strong-arm methods although it can do so. [as published]

Fears Among Neighbors

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 May 81 p 2

[Text] Shillong: Reports of 'progress' in talks between the Mizo National Front chief, Mr Laldenga, and the Union Government are generally welcome in political circles in North Eastern India, though not everybody agrees with the assertion of Mr Laldenga that a "solution of the Mizo problem" is the key to easing all tension in this region.

However, Mr Laldenga's reported demand for a 'greater Mizoram' has caused considerable misgivings in this part of the country. The MNF, it is recalled, made this demand a major plank at its birth. At that time the MNF demanded a 'greater Mizoram' with the Mizo-inhabited areas of Assam (Cachar and North-Cachar districts), certain areas of Manipur and one area of Tripura, and what it claimed to be Mizo-inhabited areas of the then East Pakistan and Burma.

For obvious reasons, in the current talks with the Centre, he is no longer demanding areas of Burma and Bangladesh. But he is reported to have insisted on amalgamation of the Mizo inhabited areas of Assam, Manipur and Tripura.

Almost all political parties of Manipur, cutting across party barriers, have 'strongly' protested against moves to slice away any area from that State and have expressed their 'resolve' to 'resist' any such move. Though Tripura has not publicly stated anything so far, indications are that if the MNF demand is pushed further, Tripura too may raise its voice against it and in that even the Tripura Upajati Juva Samiti will join hands with the others. In the case of Assam, it is noted that the MNF no longer demands any area of North-Cachar district, but some areas of Cachar district. Even if the present relation between the Bengali-speaking district Cachar and the Brahmaputra valley is not that cordial, particularly since the "anti-foreigner" agitation started, some important sections of the Assam press have already taken note of this MNF demand and expressed themselves very sharply against it.

It is to be noted that following MNF's demand for "greater Mizoram," the other political parties of the Union Territory have also made similar demands, though all the other political parties demarcated themselves from the MNF by keeping their demand confined to Indian territories adjacent to Mizoram.

The argument advanced by the supporters of 'greater Mizoram' is that the British deliberately kept the Mizos under different administrative units and thus prevented the emergence of a single Mizo entity, under a common political-administrative setup. Now that the country is free, this should be rectified.

As against this argument, it is pointed out by those who oppose this demand that in none of the areas now demanded for inclusion in "greater Mizoram" the Mizos are the only inhabitants, nor are they in a majority in these areas. Hence, there can be no question of ceding those areas to Mizoram where the density of population is, perhaps, the least. As a Manipur political leader said, if any Mizo likes it, he may go over to Mizoram, but "not an inch of Manipur territory" will be allowed to be transferred.

Manipur's anxiety is understandable. Nearly three-fourths of the population of that State lives in only one-third of its land area, in the valley. The hills are protected for the tribals and hence the land hungry Meitei--the Manipur valley people whose mother tongue is Manipuri are known as Meitei--cannot settle there, nor can they acquire any land in the hills for cultivation. The northern hills, inhabited mainly by some Naga tribes, are being demanded by those who insist on 'Naga integration,' for merger with Nagaland (there is a body known as 'Naga Integration Council' that is pushing this idea). Now the MNF demands merger of a portion of the southern hills with Mizoram. If these demands are conceded, the Meitei politicians point out, "little will be left of Manipur." But that is not the only ground for their opposition to the demand for 'greater Mizoram.' The total Mizo population in Manipur is negligible. There are some Kukis and Hmars who have had some affinity with the Mizos, but who do not identify themselves as Mizos. Hence the Manipur politicians consider this demand as unreasonable.

In Tripura's Jampuri hill area there is a Mizo population, apart from a mixed tribe, known as Hrangkhoh who also speak Mizo language. But it is doubtful if they constitute a majority even in a single compact block.

Similarly, in the Lakhimpur area of Cachar there is a Mizo population. But their number is not considered large enough to warrant the area's transfer to Mizoram.

It is, perhaps, this consideration that made the other political parties of Mizoram to play this demand for 'greater Mizoram' at a low key. But in the face of the demand by the MNF, no other party could possibly afford to appear 'less patriotic' and hence, they have also adopted, at one time or another, some resolutions lending support to this demand.

Recently, a report emanated from Cachar that New Delhi is now favourably inclined to this demand of the MNF. This has brought sharp reactions from the neighbours of Mizoram and the very 'motive' of Mr Laldenga is being questioned.

It is, however, known that over the years the MNF has perfected a publicity machinery, with its ramification in the surrounding areas. So, often it 'plants' stories on newsmen, giving a slant that favours the MNF. Whether the above-mentioned story is one of this type is not yet known.

Though in a delicate negotiation of the type that is now going on between the MNF and New Delhi premature publicity is not quite helpful, yet New Delhi possibly will be well advised to take the misgivings growing in the region on this matter into account.

Meanwhile, the Mizoram Chief Minister Brigadier T. Shailo recently charged the MNF with 'violating' the ceasefire agreement. In an address to the MNF, the Chief Minister cited as many as 15 cases of 'violation' of ceasefire, including cases of murder. His catalogue includes, besides two cases of murder, a grenade attack on a Central Reserve Police post in Lunglai district, kidnapping and assault on an Aizawl Editor (as a protest against it all the local journals

observed a kind of cease publication strike), collection of taxes under threat, recruitment to the MNF and its armed wing called the "Mizo National Army," and infiltration into Mizoram of armed MNF men from their headquarters outside the country.

In this connection certain circles point out that in several incidents of violence, including armed attacks on security forces, in Tripura the MNF was held responsible. This is in addition to the alleged training given to the Tripura extremists by the MNF in its headquarters and the 'active' collaboration of the MNF in its headquarters and the 'active' collaboration of the MNF with the Tripura extremists in their frequent acts of kidnapping and murder.

Like the Mizoram Chief Minister many others also wonder how these acts are compatible with Mr Laldenga and his MNF's peace profession. One cannot dismiss Brig Shailo's charges as mere manifestation of 'political rivalry,' though the two leaders' present mutual allergy is no secret. For, the Chief Minister cited specific cases which neither Mr Laldenga, nor his MNF, have so far disowned.
IPA

CSO: 4220

CPI GOES IT ALONE IN WEST BENGAL ELECTIONS

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 26 May 81 p 3

[Text] The West Bengal CPI will not be a party to the Left Front's joint appeal to the electorate to vote for their candidates in the Lok Sabha and Assembly by-elections. It will appeal to the voters separately.

This, according to the CPI(M) leader, Mr Promode Dasgupta, is quite understandable since the State CPI leadership is under pressure from Mr Dange's followers within the party and the break-away group, the All-India Communist Party, who are accusing the CPI of subservience to the CPI(M). The separate appeal is meant to stress the party's identity. It wants to remain as the Front's ally and not its partner.

Asked whether there was a possibility of a powerful alliance between the Congress(I) and the AICP in West Bengal, Mr Dasgupta said that an alliance with the Congress(I) meant abject surrender. The Congress(I) had never yielded to pressure over adjustment of seats with any other political party. Apart from those who had left the CPI and joined the AICP, there was a sizable section within the party who followed Mr Dange. They did not leave the party possibly because they did not want to face an uncertain political future. Some of them wanted to harass the party leadership from within.

The CPI(M) leader said it was not true that the CPI(M) central committee was meeting in Calcutta from June 24 to 28 in view of his illness. The meeting would be held in Calcutta because Delhi was too warm in June.

A State Congress(U) leader said that despite the Congress(I)'s decision to boycott the municipal elections, a section of its workers was actively supporting his party's election campaign. Of the 1,500 candidates in 89 municipalities, the Congress(U), Janata and the Independent candidates they support number about 800. Already 265 candidates of the Left Front and its ally, the CPI, have been declared elected uncontested.

CSO: 4220

KEISHING REAFFIRMED AS MANIPUR CONGRESS-I LEADER

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 May 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Imphal, May 26 (PTI)--Mr Rishang Keishing, former Chief Minister of Manipur, was today reaffirmed as leader of the Congress(I) Legislature Party at a meeting of CLP(I) members held here this morning, according to a press release issued by the secretary of CLP(I) Mr Wangoq Singh.

The release said the strength of the Congress(I) in the 60-member Legislative Assembly had now risen to 35.

Meanwhile, Mr O. Joy, MLA, convener of the Manipur Peoples Democratic Front (PDF), today decried efforts of the Congress(I) to install a Ministry in the State.

Mr Joy told PTI in New Delhi that he would apprise Prime Minister Indira Gandhi and Home Minister Zail Singh of the problems of the State and the situation now prevailing there.

He felt that if the Congress(I) Ministry was installed, the PDF would use "democratic" means to remove it. Installation of the Ministry would be against all parliamentary norms, he added.

Bhupesh Protest

Our special correspondent adds: Leader of the CPI group in Parliament Bhupesh Gupta has lodged his strong protest against the manner in which President's Rule has been misused not only to organise defection but even to kidnap some MLAs to realise a majority for the Congress-I.

In a statement on Tuesday, Mr Gupta said: 'The return of the Congress-I to power in Manipur will only give a further boost to the corruption and misrule for which the earlier Congress-I became notorious. This scandalous power-grabbing would not even bring administrative stability to the state, not to speak of solving the problems of the people.'

It was Mr Gupta's considered view that it was not the way to observe democratic norms and promote national integration when the people of Manipur have already many grievances against the Centre.' Pointed out that the Central Government which had arbitrarily denied the Progressive Democratic Front any opportunity to form a government in the State, despite its clear majority, was now restoring the Congress-I to power under the same leader, Rishang Keishing, who had to resign last February as he had lost his majority.

MORE CONGRESS-U MEMBERS RESIGN FROM PARTY

B. R. Bhagat Quits

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 May 81 p 7

[Text] New Delhi, May 27: Mr Bali Ram Bhagat today resigned his primary membership of the Congress(U) and announced his intention to join the Congress(I).

Reacting strongly to Mr K. P. Unnikrishnan's demand that Mr Y. B. Chavan should resign his membership of the Lok Sabha also, Mr Bhagat pointed out that the parliamentary party secretary had not made any such demand when Mr Jagjivan Ram had quit the Janata party and joined the Congress(U).

Mr Bhagat stated that like Mr Chavan, he too would not give up his membership of the Lok Sabha as he considered these were matters for the electorate to decide. After a round of his constituency in Bihar, he felt that there was an overwhelming demand from the people for him to join the Congress(I), he said.

Letter to Urs

In his letter to the Congress(U) president, Mr Devaraj Urs, Mr Bhagat states that in the last Lok Sabha election, the electorate had given its unmistakable verdict that the Congress(I) was the real Congress.

"Our Congress could not establish the claim of being the true inheritor of the united Congress party. Since then, all efforts to maintain a separate identity for our party have proved an exercise in futility. In the present context of national politics, our Congress has ceased to have any relevance at all," he said.

Mr Bhagat said he was resigning from the primary and all other memberships, including those of the district, pradesh, AICC and the parliamentary party.

The U.P. from Bihar had moved the resolution in the Lok Sabha rescinding the expulsion resolution on Mrs Indira Gandhi in 1978 when she was out of power and just after she had won the Lok Sabha by-election from Chikmagalur in Karnataka.

Mr Bhagat stated that while he had discussed his resolution with the former leader of the Congress(U) parliamentary party, Mr Y. B. Chavan, and obtained his consent, Mr Jagjivan Ram was wanting to expel him for seeking to move this resolution.

Mr Ram had called a meeting at his residence on the eve of Mr Bhagat's moving his resolution. But Mr Bhagat had refused to attend it on the ground that in the absence of Mr Chavan, only the deputy leader of the party, Mr Bhole Paswan Shastri, was empowered to call a meeting of the CPP(U).

Mr Bhagat's exit from the party leaves only 12 MPs belonging to the Congress(U). The speculation is that some more may cross over before the start of the monsoon session of Parliament.

Aurangabad, Other Members

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 May 61 p 7

[Text]

AURANGABAD, May 27 (PTI)
Mr. Alexander Vardhane, president of the Aurangabad city Congress (U), along with other prominent party workers have resigned from the party. Mr. Vardhane said here today that they would follow the path of Mr. Y. B. Chavan.

The MPCC (U) vice-president, Mr. Manikrao Patilkar, M.L.A. and Mr. Rangnath Patil, M.L.A. might resign while other party leaders, including Mr. Kanchesh Kadam (Nanded) and a former minister, Mr. Padmanabh Patil (Nasik), will not take any decision without consulting the MPCC (U) chief, Mr. Bharat Pawar, who is on the foreign tour.

The MPCC (U) treasurer, Mr. Jhaverikar Joti, M.L.A. told newsmen at Aurangabad that the political neutrality of the Congress (U) was under attack and therefore, they were quitting the party.

But at the same time, the former Aurangabad city parish president, Mr. Balabhai Patil (Dhargadkar), said he would not leave the Congress (U) at any cost.

A former M.L.A. and prominent Congress (U) worker in the district, Mr. Vishwanath Jadhav, has also resigned from the party.

Mr. Jadhav said most of the leaders including all the M.L.A.s and workers should follow the party in this to show unity.

He said that there was a spirit of resignation from the Congress (U) leaders from Karmu taluka of Khatwas taluka.

He said that the 14 party members of the Karmu constituency would, including in chairman, they will petition the government, including party leaders Mr. Y. B. Patil, Mr. J. D. Pawar, Mr. Manikrao Patil, Mr. Kanchesh Kadam, Mr. Rangnath Patil and others. He said that the district committee will also take up the case and will convene a meeting of the district committee at Aurangabad to discuss the matter. He said that the district committee will also take up the case and will convene a meeting of the district committee at Aurangabad to discuss the matter.

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GANDHI OPENS NEW SOVIET FRIENDS SOCIETY PARLEY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 28 May 81 pp 1, 7

(Text) Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on Wednesday lashed out at Western critics for characterising India's relations with the Soviet Union as of "overdependence" and said these relations were based on mutual respect and the Soviet Union's consistent stand on issues pertaining to Third World countries.

Inaugurating a two-day National Convention of the newly-formed Friends of the Soviet Union society in the Capital, she contrasted the activities of the Western countries with those of the USSR on issues like racialism colonialism apartheid as well as India's economic development to emphasise the abiding significance of Indo-Soviet friendship.

Presided over by PSU Chairman Prof S. Nurul Hasan, the convention's inaugural session on the 17th death anniversary of Jawaharlal Nehru was attended by a Soviet delegation headed by the Russian Federation's Minister of Geology and vice-president of Soviet-Indian Friendship Society L. I. Rovnin. External Affairs Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao, Home Minister Zail Singh Soviet Ambassador Y. M. Vorontsov and the Chief Ministers of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab sat on the dais. Among those seated on the front row were AITUC president S. A. Dange and several other Union Ministers.

"It is untenable to interpret non-alignment as a equidistance from the super-powers," Mrs Gandhi underlined. "On the contrary non-alignment is something very positive. It means taking every chance to improve the outlook of peace and to adopt a clear stand on matters on which we have strong convictions."

In this context, she observed: "Did not the so-called democratic West take obstructive positions on decolonisation and apartheid? Even now looking at the support given to South Africa and Israel, its record does not shine."

Consistent Stand

On the other hand, the "Soviet Union's consistent stand on such matters has brought us closer together," she noted. She also clarified: "The question is not of our voting with the Soviet Union so much as the Soviet Union voting with the countries of Asia and Africa, and supporting freedom movements and struggles against colonialism."

Earlier, Mrs Gandhi said amidst applause that she was attending the convention "not as a leader but as a friend of the Soviet Union."

Indo-Soviet friendship, she declared, is "time-tested" one which has helped India in adverse circumstances. This friendship "need not be at the cost of friendship with others."

"Unfortunately, this has not been appreciated by some countries who take the view that either we are completely with them or we are against them. It has even been stated openly that non-alignment is 'immoral.' That approach seems to persist, despite some change over to more subtle phraseology. This attitude makes them anti-India," she said.

Referring to the positions taken by the West and the USSR towards India's economic development, Mrs Gandhi pointed out: "It is no secret that the West did not approve of our developing heavy industry and achieving self-reliance. It is to the credit of the leaders of the Soviet Union that they extended a helping hand at that most crucial stage of our development. Bhilai Cokaro and so many other projects are witnesses to this." She said India had "tangibly benefited" from constructive cooperation with the USSR in the economic field.

Mrs Gandhi recalled how Mahatma Gandhi was dubbed by British imperialists as a Bolshevik agent in the twenties and thirties and Jawaharlal Nehru faced the same kind of malicious attack.

The propaganda was more subtle now and alleged that geopolitical reasons, had compelled India to 'mute our criticism of the USSR for example on the developments in Afghanistan.'

The Prime Minister said India had not been hesitant in urging withdrawal of outside forces 'but not in one place, everywhere, wherever they exist.' India felt entitled to ask what has been achieved by those who had raised a hue and cry and if they were consistent in their views as regards other countries, other places and other times.

She said India had during the national movement, felt the urge to develop relations with other countries. Indians were attracted to Russian literature and the fight against feudalism in Russia. Gandhiji's correspondence with Leo Tolstoy was well known.

Cultural Links

Mrs Gandhi also mentioned the cultural links and interaction of Indian arts and artists with Russian and the tremendous impression of the Russian revolution on India. The determination and courage of the Soviet people thwarting foreign designs also made a deep impact in India, which was fighting to shake off alien rule.

The Indian independence, which shook the "coping stone" of imperialism, was fought by the common masses, peasants and poor people under the inspiration of Gandhi and Nehru. Their instrument was the Indian National Congress. There was well-meaning backing from individuals abroad but no organised international support, she said.

Mrs Gandhi said India was no exception in being attracted to the Soviet social and economic experiments which had won the attention of Motilal and Jawaharlal Nehru, Rabindranath Tagore and many other Indians.

The Soviet initiatives in national planning had specially been watched with great interest. Leaders like Mr V. K. Krishna Menon and Mr K. D. Malaviya played important roles in this regard.

She recalled how Soviet planning and establishment of basic industries had considerably influenced Indian planning which however was different from that of the Soviet Union.

Stating that India had drawn upon the Soviet experience, Mrs Gandhi said, however, 'we have never claimed to be, nor are we Communists. Neither are we capitalists.' India thus is 'faced the wrath of both.' But it believed in adopting good ideas wherever they were found.

Mrs Gandhi said Indo-Soviet friendship rested on firm foundations. There were those who regarded Soviet Union as 'professional friends' same as others were 'professional foes.' This was what created problems.

Some forums played the role of 'custodians' of Indo-Soviet friendship and this had disturbed others genuinely interested in it and their apprehensions had now proved true looking at the 'later events' in the country in the past few years and even today, she said.

On the contrary, Mrs Gandhi noted with satisfaction that there were 'some who the truth, faced the raw realities' and acted differently and 'courageously looking to the large interests, not only of friendship with progressive forces but with the peoples interests. (as published)

Mrs Gandhi said Indo-Soviet friendship had to be rescued from 'self-appointed guardians.' It should be national friendship and not a 'partisan one.'

This was the reason for the revitalisation of the Friends of Soviet Union which had people of different political parties and nonpartymen as well, desirous of close and more effective cooperation with the Soviet Union.

Significant

Head of the Soviet delegation L. I. Rovnin reaffirmed that Indo-Soviet friendship was an important factor for strengthening peace in Asia and beyond. When forces of imperialism and hegemonism were posing a threat to international peace and security establishment of the FSU at the initiative of leaders of the ruling party of India, the Cong-I, "is an event of great political significance," he said.

Speaking of his organisation, the Soviet-Indian Friendship Society of which he is the Vice-President, Mr Rovnin said it had "during a number of decades been maintaining traditional close relations with the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society, with the widest strata of the Indian people."

"The arrival of our delegation in India for taking part in your convention is a testimony to the desire of the Soviet people to cooperate with your society (FSU)," he declared. He hoped the FSU would promote friendship and all-sided cooperation between the two countries.

"The Soviet people are sincerely interested in friendship with India and want to see India strong, united, playing a befitting role in world affairs," he added.

Soviet Ambassador Y. M. Vorontsov recalled the FSU organising committee's statement describing Indo Soviet friendship and cooperation an "essential element in the fight for world peace, detente, national independence, social progress and stability of nation-states." The Soviet Union was in "full agreement" with such an approach to the international significance of ties between the two peoples and states, he said.

He said incepted by Jawaharlal Nehru this friendship had become a really popular tradition in the last 30 years. "In this connection, the ISCUS has been doing all these years and continues doing a great job in bringing closer together broad sections of people of our two countries," he noted and hailed the foundation of the FSU in the year when the two peoples were to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Indo-Soviet Treaty of Peace Friendship and Cooperation.

Prof Nurul Hasan in his presidential address said friendship with the USSR was a major element in the Indian foreign policy and recounted how in the 'perspective of total opposition to imperialism' Jawaharlal Nehru had found in the Soviet Union a trusted ally and friend. He also recalled how in the famous Quit India resolution of 1942 the Indian National Congress had expressed profound sympathy of the Indian people with the Soviet masses fighting fascism.

He said it was not fortuitous that when Dulles called non-alignment 'immoral,' the USSR had expressed respect and regard for the concept Mr Hasan paid rich tributes to Mrs Gandhi for her worthy contribution to the cause of Indo-Soviet friendship while carrying forward the movement for non-alignment, and said it was her 'vision and statesmanship' which had led India to sign the historic Indo-Soviet Treaty.

He said the organisers of the FSU felt that it should transcend party politics, but one could not be blind to the existence of Right-wing elements who wanted to keep India equidistant from the USSR and the imperialist powers and desired close relations with Israel. There could not be any understanding with such elements on friendship with the Soviet Union.

Nor could there be understanding with those in the Left who had chosen to collaborate with forces of destabilisation and thus 'cannot objectively build Indo-Soviet friendship staying away from the mainstream of national life.'

The convention unanimously adopted a resolution moved by Mr V. N. Gadgil, MP paying homage to Jawaharlal Nehru. It described the late Prime Minister as the greatest statesman of free India who continuously worked for peace and progress, and for building a strong and prosperous nation. The nation should follow the path shown by Jawaharlal Nehru in defeating forces of destabilisation and others attempting to create chaos and anarchy the resolution said.

Earlier, in his welcome address Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee-I president H. K. L. Bhagat described Jawaharlal Nehru as the true builder of modern India.

Former Union Minister K. R. Ganesh presented the vote of thanks.

He recalled how the Feroze Gandhi had smuggled into India large number of photographs about Soviet life in 1943 to exhibit it throughout India under the aegis of the FSU of those days.

CSO: 4220

NEW NAXALITE GROUP ADVOCATES 'MAO'S THOUGHTS'

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 May 61 p 7

[Text]

TRIVANDRUM

Newsies in Kerala who do not believe in the correctness of "individual annihilation at this point of time" have formed a new group under the leadership of Miss Aytha, who shot into prominence after the first Naxalite attack on a police station (Pupaly) in the State in the late 1950s.

Claiming to be the "real" communists under the banner of Marxism-Leninism and Mao's thoughts, the group maintains that after the CPI (ML) was formed on April 22 1960, the communist revolutionaries in the country because of faulty leadership, were compelled to remain scattered in numerous groups thus creating a setback for the launching of a people's war of liberation against the exploiters and class enemies.

People's trial

In a statement issued in connection with the 13th anniversary of the CPI (ML), the Aytha group has made a scathing attack on CPI (ML) and CPI calling them "revisionist, communist label parties" which had betrayed the basic tenets of Marxism-Leninism.

The Trivandrum District Organising Secretary of the new group, Mr. S. Sathya, told THE HINDU that his party was not opposed to "trial by the people of an exploiter or oppressor". But, the trial must be done with the people's consent and participation.

"There is no justification for calling it a people's trial if the people continue to run away when the police come", he explained.

The murder of Mr. Mammal Mathai

at Kanchira in Wynad district last week, according to the Aytha group, is in direct conflict with Marxism which had cautioned against "individual annihilation except in a situation of people's revolution".

Asserting that the present "semi-feudal, semi-colonial system must be toppled through a series of armed struggles with the backing of the masses", the group says "annihilation of individuals by a handful of revolutionaries will only isolate the latter from the people".

The group describes CPI (ML) as powerless and CPI as opportunistic and says "in effect, both these communist label parties had evaded the basic caution of people's struggle to become neo-revisionists".

The evils of extreme adventurism in the form of individual terrorism, the opportunistic revisionism of the communist label parties and the anti-people Government of the Congress (I) have to be opposed with equal force for which "a strong party of communist revolutionaries has to be built up".

Miss Aytha, after her release from jail, has been leading a quiet life. Her father, Kunhiyal Narayanan, is a retired while her mother, Mandira, is a virtually bedridden. All three were sentenced in the Pupaly case.

CHIEF MINISTER: TRIPURA CANNOT ACCEPT ANY MORE PEOPLE

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 May 81 p 3

[Text] Mr Nripen Chakravorty, the Chief Minister of Tripura, told reporters in Calcutta on Wednesday that his State was unable to accept any more people, either from Assam or from Bangladesh. A watch was being kept along the State's borders these areas to prevent the influx of refugees.

He said that the recent anti-India activities in Bangladesh had led to apprehensions that the minority Hindu population in that country might flee in panic and try to enter Tripura. The trend of the current Assam talks had led to similar fears. He added that if the Centre agreed to any cut-off year prior to 1971, it was bound to have serious repercussions in Tripura. The tribals would immediately raise the demand that the Bengalis who had settled there after 1961 were outsiders. Mrs Gandhi would have to bear the consequences, he added.

He alleged that the armed wing of the Mizo National Front was helping the Tripura Upajati Yuba Samity, which had spearheaded the recent tribals' agitation in the State. One group of the MNF, with sophisticated arms, was threatening the residents of the hill area and extorting money from them. Repeated appeals to the Mizoram Government to stop them had failed.

The Chief Minister said that the Government had definite information that insurgents belonging to the MNF and TUJS had a sanctuary in Bangladesh. The TUJS had recently formed an armed wing, the Tripura National Volunteers. At least 150 of their members had received training in sophisticated arms. It was suspected that they were getting supply of such arms as well. He alleged that American agents were present on the Tripura-Bangladesh border and fomenting trouble. Members of the TUJS, arrested while trying to cross over to Bangladesh, had made such statements to security forces, he added.

Asked whether the State Government was short of security forces, he said that the Centre had recently provided an additional unit of the Border Security Force which could be used to quell internal disturbances also. But it had refused to auction an additional battalion of the Tripura Armed Police. The TAP now had two battalions.

Though there had been no communal incident in Tripura recently, stray murders and dacoities were taking place. He alleged that members of the TUJS who had received arms training were responsible for these incidents. During one year

after the riots, eleven such incidents had occurred. In most cases, TUJS members had attacked CPI(M) members. Two months ago in a tribal village in Selema block, three Bengali workers had been kidnapped. Their bodies were found the next day. These indicated that potential danger existed there and forces of disruption were working.

He alleged that the Congress(I) and the Amra Bangali in the State had conspired to team up with the TUJS and create trouble. He claimed that the Left Front Government in Tripura had done a lot to restore normal conditions after the carnage of 1980. Almost all of the 315,000 people who had taken shelter in relief camps had gone back to their old villages. The Government had given financial assistance to the affected persons to rebuild their houses. The food-for-work scheme had started vigorously, but wait of supply of food-grain from Delhi almost stopped it. The confirmed death figure in the riots was 1,400. Of them 40% were tribals and most of the rest were Bengalis.

The Chief Minister on Wednesday inaugurated an annexe building of the Tripura Bhavan in Calcutta. Tribals would get preference in accommodation at the bhavan, he said.

Mr Chakravorty told reporters at Calcutta airport on Tuesday that the survey for the proposed railway link between Dharmanagar and Agartala via Kumarghat in Tripura would be complete in December. About Rs 50 crores will be spent on the project, he said. He would ask the Planning Commission to sanction this money next year.

CSO: 4220

VENKATARAMAN ON INFLATION FIGHT, GABON TALKS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 May 81 p 1

[Text] New Delhi, May 27. The Union finance minister, Mr R. Venkataraman, once again reiterated today that the government was considering measures to tackle inflation in the country.

There was no package of anti-inflationary measures as such, he told newsmen. Several proposals were under consideration and he would not like to divulge them at this stage.

Mr Venkataraman pointed out that the Reserve Bank of India had already announced its decision to continue the restrictive credit policy and raise the cash reserve ratio of scheduled commercial banks from six per cent to seven per cent in two stages. This would help immobilise about Rs 500 crores.

The finance minister admitted that the price situation was not satisfactory, but said it was not "alarming" either. The rise in the wholesale price index in the past few weeks had been very modest. Between March 28 and May 9, the index rose by 1.9 per cent, about half of the increase in the corresponding period of 1980.

Mr Venkataraman was asked what concrete measures he was considering in view of the failure of the special bearer bonds scheme to mop up the expected Rs 1,000 crores of black money.

The finance minister said he would not disclose what measures he would introduce since it could lead to hoarding and other malpractices.

Mr Venkataraman did not share the view that the current year's budget deficit (about Rs 1,450 crores) would rise substantially. Such an assumption in less than two months of the new financial year would be uncalled for. But he was certain that the deficit would not be of the order mentioned in some press reports (about Rs 3,000 crores).

The finance minister similarly would not reveal the order of borrowings from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) now being negotiated. He said the borrowings were being sought because of the trade deficit caused by oil imports at higher prices.

Mr Venkataraman said the government's policy on gold would come up before the cabinet sub-committee for a decision shortly. It would be framed in the light of the Puri committee's report on gold auctions during the Janata regime.

Referring to the deliberations of the interim committee (IMF) and development committee (World Bank) at Libreville in Gabon last week, the finance minister sought to dispel the impression that the "meetings were a fiasco." Nor, he added, were they a grand success.

As at other such international gatherings, at Libreville also the developing countries tried hard to persuade the developed countries to make larger resources available. The developed countries on their part were reluctant to release more funds.

The Indian delegation led by Mr Venkataraman emphasised that the developing countries faced a massive adjustment problem in the coming years and needed an expanded flow of external financing on suitable terms. The delegation pointed out that the response of the international community had so far been totally inadequate.

India underlined the point that the role of the IMF should be to help the developing countries in the difficult task of structural adjustment. In this connection, it called for an increase in the IMF quotas to provide member countries with a larger access to IMF resources.

India also urged a further allocation of special drawing rights (SDRs) and establishment of higher drawing limits for the new enlarged access facility with a 600 per cent limit over three years. The IMF board scaled it down to 450 per cent.

Regarding the sixth replenishment fund of the International Development Association (IDA), Mr Venkataraman said that unless 80 per cent of the funds were committed, the facility could not be effective.

The US, which contributed 27 per cent of the funds, had promised to replenish the IDA in a phased manner--\$540 million in the first year, \$850 million in the second and \$1,850 million in the third year.

However, the first step in the US commitment of \$3.24 billion to the IDA-6 was to secure authorisation from Congress.

The real problem was that the total authorisation from Congress was not available and the IDA-6, therefore, could not be effective. The World Bank had been forced to approach other countries to make advance money available.

Mr Venkataraman said the Reagan administration had declared its intention to fulfill its commitment once Congress authorisation was available.

RESERVE BANK GOVERNOR EXPLAINS CREDIT RESTRAINTS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 May 81 p 5

[Text] Bombay, May 27: The hike in the cash reserve ratio (CRR) of scheduled commercial banks, announced by the Reserve Bank of India yesterday, was aimed at reducing the liquidity in the economy. About Rs 400 crores would be taken away from the banking system and impounded with the RBI in the current year, which would reduce the expansion in bank credit.

Explaining the rationale behind the measures, Dr. I. G. Patel, governor of the RBI, told newsmen here today that, with the anticipated growth in deposits of about Rs 6,700 crores in the current financial year, the impounding of bank funds through the hike in the CRR would have been around Rs 670 crores. However, the increase in the CRR was being made in two stages--half a per cent from six to 6.5 per cent from July 31 and from 6.5 to seven per cent from September 11. Thus, about Rs 400 crores would be impounded.

He said the RBI preferred to raise the CRR rather than the statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) of banks, since the hike in the latter would not have helped reducing the liquidity in the economy. The hike in the SLR would have meant larger investments in government and other approved securities by banks, which would have raised the purchasing power of the government and other semi-government bodies.

Dr Patel justified the credit restraint measures announced on Tuesday in the context of the 17.4 per cent expansion in the aggregate monetary resources (M3) during 1980-81 on top of the expansion of 17.3 per cent in 1979-80.

He said the revised figures for currency with the public and bank deposits (M1) had shown that the expansion in M1 was lower at 12 per cent during 1980-81 than 14 per cent in 1979-80.

Dr Patel said in the past two to three years the understanding between the RBI and commercial banks was much better. By and large, RBI guidelines were being met by banks.

He explained banks were not expected to pass on the benefit of the lower interest rate in respect of re-finance for export credit to their customers. He said the reduction in the interest rate for banks would induce them (banks) to entertain such proposals from reporters more speedily.

Answering questions on the inflow of foreign remittances, Dr Patel said there was no declining trends noticeable in invisibles, which constituted inward foreign remittances, earnings from tourists and so on.

He pointed out that licences to open 5,000 branches had been given to the banks. But the branch expansion was slow in states like Assam, Orissa, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, and the banks had been urged to set up branches in these states quickly.

Asked about the restructuring of banks, Dr Patel said this question was being discussed at various levels for the last three years. However, no concrete proposal had emerged as yet in this regard.

Clarifying RBI's position on the writing off of loans in the cooperative sector, Dr Patel said at present there was a better understanding between the state governments, the Central government and the RBI on the recovery of loans.

He said the RBI had suggested to the state governments to create a fund for writing off cooperative loans in cases where there was a genuine need to do so.

Dr Patel said there was a misunderstanding that the RBI was opposed to the writing off of loans in all cases. It was opposed only to the "indiscriminate" writing off of loans.

He recalled that the Prime Minister had written letters to one or two state governments in this regard. The Union agriculture minister and the RBI had also written letters to the state governments. There had been discussions between the RBI and the parties concerned and as a result there was a better understanding now of the issues involved.

Referring to the recent report of the Sivaraman committee, Dr Patel said the Reserve Bank would soon write to the planning commission to call a meeting of the state governments to finalise district plans.

CSO: 4220

'PTI' INTERVIEWS CHIEF ELECTION COMMISSIONER

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 26 May 81 p 4

[Interview with Mr S. L. Shakhder, chief election commissioner, by PTI in New Delhi, 25 May 1981: "Centre Against Poll Identity Cards"]

[Text] New Delhi, May 25 (PTI)--The Union finance ministry is the "stumbling block" in the way of implementing the election commission's decision to introduce identity cards for voters, Mr S. L. Shakhder, chief election commissioner, said here today.

He told P.T.I. in an interview that the commission had directed all state governments to take steps to introduce identity cards to the electorate with the states and the Centre sharing the expenditure equally. While the state governments were keen on implementing the scheme, the Union finance ministry had said that it was not able to finance the scheme.

Mr Shakhder said only the Sikkim government had completed issuing identity cards to voters. Nagaland, Meghalaya and Manipur and some other states had taken preparatory steps in that direction.

Mr Shakhder said he was at a loss to understand the objection raised by the finance ministry officials. He said the decision to introduce identity cards was taken by the commission after consulting and reaching an agreement with all political parties. "I don't know how officers of the finance ministry can interfere with the decision of the commission," he said.

The chief election commissioner said he had made a proposal to the government that there should be an election fund so that "bureaucratic hurdles could be dispensed with and the commission could implement schemes which it thought fit for holding the elections as efficiently as possible.

Mr Shakhder said he had told the government that the scheme could be taken up in a phased manner and implemented in two to three years. Initially, it could be implemented in "sensitive" constituencies so that the question of "huge finances" would not arise.

Introduction of identity cards and electronic voting machines would ventually result in substantial economy, he said.

With the identity cards, the commission could dispense with the electoral rolls and elections could be held at short notice. The card would also help eliminate impersonation and 'bogus' voters.

Mr Shakti said the identity card could be used also as a "national security card" and it would give the correct statistics regarding the electorate. It would also help detect "foreign nationals" overstaying in the country.

The chief election commissioner said the Electronics Corporation, Hyderabad, and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bangalore, had successfully developed the prototypes of the electronic voting machines. "We are trying to get some machines and put them on field trial in some by-elections to see how the voters take to it," he said.

Mr Shakti hoped that both the identity cards and the electronic voting machine schemes would be implemented within the next five years.

When the electronic voting machine scheme materialised, every booth would have one such machine costing Rs 1,000 to Rs 1,500. It would help in getting the results of the polling within five to six hours of the close of polling. The machine would last 10 to 15 years and it would help to do away with paper, printing, marking and preservation of documents. It would also help to reduce the manpower at the booths.

The total cost of these two schemes would be about Rs 100 crore to be shared equally by the Centre and states.

He said the commission was working on new methods to prevent "booth capturing" in the forthcoming by-elections, particularly in states like Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

The commission was posting sufficiently senior rank presiding officers to the constituencies where the by-elections were held so that they were able to identify the "booth captors," take action against them and report the matter to the commission, he said.

"Similarly, we are inducting some senior officers from the judiciary and Central government organisations as observers," he said.

Mr Shakti said the commission was also not allowing the formation of any new booths unless they were agreed to by all parties concerned. For the by-elections, he said the number of booths had been frozen at the 1980 parliamentary election level.

"Any further addition to the booths will be done carefully so that there are no allegations of manipulation or intimidation," he said.

Sufficient number of armed guards were also being posted at all sensitive places, he added. Mr Shakti said he had also issued directions that while counting of votes, if any booth was found containing 80 per cent or more votes in contrast to poor voting generally in other booths, such a booth should not be taken into account and repoll would be ordered. "This will act as a damper for those who intend to capture booths," he said.

GANDHI SAID TO INITIATE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE STYLE

Madras THE HINDU in English 27 May 81 p 1

[Text]

NEW DELHI, May 26

The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has intimated efforts to speed up the administrative processes in key sectors through direct, face-to-face talks with those responsible for the execution of governmental policies.

She called the Commerce Secretary, Mr. P. K. Kaul, and the Textile Secretary, Mr. Saran Singh, today for discussions on the various aspects of exports and proposed to have similar meetings with officials of other important Ministries.

What happened at today's meetings was important. She familiarised herself with present-day trends in world markets, options available to India, as also the constraints experienced by it, and underscored the need for removing bottlenecks and delays.

The idea is pursuance of the belief that, even within the realm of possibilities, better results could be achieved through a more streamlining of procedures.

New Style: More important, however, was the new style signalled by today's discussions. The idea was to convey the sense of urgency, which though evident at the policy-making level, got diluted when it came to implementation.

To start with, she would take up the economic Ministries — for understandable reasons. This will be

in addition to the coordination effected through the Economic Committee of the Cabinet, of which she herself is the Chairman.

The committee meets normally once a month for sanctioning new ventures or expansion of existing enterprises in public, private and joint sectors, as also proposals for collaboration with foreign parties.

At a meeting on Monday, for instance, the Committee cleared some 20 proposals, ranging from the expansion of the captive power plants at Rourkela to the introduction of a new technology in the manufacture of sewing machines, and manufacture of new telephone equipment at the Rashtreeya plant.

Apart from the regular members, the Committee meetings are attended by other Ministers whose Ministries are concerned with the proposals.

Then there is the parallel effort involving the State Governments — of the type indicated by Mrs. Gandhi's recent visit to Chandigarh to impress on the Governments of Punjab and Haryana the need to intensify procurement of wheat.

Apart from addressing a joint conference of the Chief Ministers, Ministers and officials of the two States, Mrs. Gandhi had a separate talk with their Chief Secretaries.

This again was intended to be the first of a series of similar meetings. She may next visit Bihar.

Though the subjects of discussion would vary from State to State, the underlying idea would be the same — to gear up the administration to overcome avoidable obstacles.

POWER TO APPROVE FOREIGN CONTRACTS DELEGATED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 May 61 p 8

[Text] The Government has decided to delegate powers to the administrative ministries for approval of certain foreign collaboration proposals to streamline and expedite the procedures for securing such approvals, reports UNI.

In a notification issued on Tuesday, the Ministry of Industry has outlined the types of proposals in which foreign collaboration will be permitted. These cases are: where there is no foreign equity participation; where the applicant is not a company with existing foreign equity investment; where the item proposed to be manufactured is consistent with the priorities set out in the industrial policy statement; where the proposal is not one envisaging extension of the period of collaboration approved earlier.

Other types of cases where foreign collaboration approvals can be accorded are: --where the royalty payable is not more than five per cent (taxable) and will be comprised within the period of agreement which may extend to 10 years. The period of going into commercial production is included within this period. The total lumpsum and royalty payments should not be more than eight per cent of the total expected sales (calculated on exfactory value basis) over a period not exceeding 10 years. The above would be treated as upper ceilings and the rate of royalty, the amount of lumpsum and the period of agreement in respect of individual cases would be decided by the administrative ministries on a case to case basis, taking into account all relevant factors. It is desirable that normally the period of agreement should be for eight years and royalty for five years allowing three years for commencement of commercial production.

Lumpsum payments if any should be paid in three standard instalments, the first instalment to be paid after the agreement is taken on record, the second instalment on delivery of technical documentation and the third and last instalment to be paid on the commencement of commercial production or four years after the agreement is taken on record, whichever is earlier.

If the Indian party so desires, the lumpsum amount sanctioned could be net of Indian taxes with taxes being borne by the Indian party.

The foreign exchange outgo in each case on lumpsum payments, if any, and royalty together does not exceed Rs 50 lakh in the aggregate and excessive outgo on royalty and or lumpsum would not be permitted.

The notifications directs, all applications seeking approval of foreign collaboration to be continually received centrally in the Secretariat of the Industrial Approvals (SIA) foreign collaboration section is the department of industrial development as before.

Applications in respect of proposals which could be disposed of by the administrative ministries under the delegated powers will be forwarded by the secretariat for industrial approvals to the ministries concerned.

CSO: 4220

BIHAR RAISING FORCE TO MAINTAIN COMMUNAL HARMONY

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 May 81 p 4

[Text] Patna, May 25. The Bihar Government has decided to raise three battalions of volunteers known as "kamjor varg ke raksharth rakshabahini" for safeguarding the weaker sections of the society, minority communities, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, according to a press note issued here today.

The three battalions will maintain communal harmony in village life and assist the police in establishment of law and order.

Other tasks to be performed by this new force will be to protect the new land owners from eviction in villages, ensure their rights and possessions on lands, safeguard the poor from excesses of the money-lenders, and ensure the real benefits for the 20-point programme to the poor.

The decision was taken in the wake of incidents of 'atrocities' and 'excesses' on weaker sections, minorities, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.

It has been proposed to train about 2,589 volunteers having special aptitude to fulfill these objectives. It has also been decided that the volunteers of these new battalions should necessarily be matriculates so that they understand the tasks well.

Besides, a sum of Rs 4 crore has been earmarked for reorganising the homeguards force on the basis of needs of the society following the recommendations of the Seventh Finance Commission.

Equipment has been purchased for training the homeguards and volunteers. Steps have also been taken to augment the strength of the homeguards force. It is expected that the organisation with these achievements will now be in a better position to serve the people of the State.

CSO: 4220

RESERVE BANK TO CONTINUE RESTRICTIVE CREDIT POLICY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 27 May 81 pp 1, 14

[Text] Bombay, May 26: The Reserve Bank of India has decided to continue the restrictive credit policy for the current slack season (May to October 1981). The cash reserve ratio of scheduled commercial banks is being raised from six to seven percent in two stages.

From next month, the discretionary refinance and bills rediscounting by banks will be costlier by three per cent.

At the same time, banks have been given relief by an upward revision in the interest rate paid by the RBI on the bank's balances maintained with it from 6.5 per cent to seven per cent effective June 1.

For facilitating exports, the interest charged by the RBI on refinance in respect of export credit will be reduced from 10 to nine per cent from next month.

Reviewing the recent monetary and credit trends, Dr I. G. Patel, governor of the Reserve Bank, told the chief executives of major commercial banks on Bombay today that in the context of the persistent pressure on prices and the continued large expansion of non-food credit, banks should ensure that credit expansion was "within reasonable limits."

He wanted that the credit expansion in the current slack season as also in the entire financial year 1981-82 did not exceed the expansion in the corresponding period.

The governor exhorted the banks to make renewed efforts to extend adequate credit support to the priority sectors, meeting the needs of production and public distribution, especially of essential commodities. He also wanted the banks to give special attention to the needs of the beneficiaries of the 20-point programme.

Dr Patel stressed the importance of the banks implementing the recommendations of the Chore committee and other guidelines on credit issued by the Reserve Bank earlier.

He told bankers that the cash reserve ratio would be raised from six to 6.5 per cent by July 31 and further to seven per cent by September 11, 1981.

Dr Patel explained that the discretionary refinance rate and the bill rediscounting rate would be raised from 11 per cent to 14 per cent from June 1, to ensure that the banks sought refinance from the RBI only when there was an "urgent and unavoidable" needs. He emphasised that this would, of course, have no effect on the bank lending rates.

He said the upward revision in the rate of interest paid by the RBI on banks' balances with it had been made keeping in view the recent revisions in interest rates and changes in yields on government securities.

On the longer-term issues, the governor referred to branch expansion and impressed upon the chairman of banks the need for opening offices in the backward areas as speedily as possible, especially in Assam, Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. He wanted the chairmen to take an interest and assist the regional rural banks sponsored by them in stepping up the pace of branch expansion.

CBO: 4220

BANKS' RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD MINORITIES STRESSED

New Delhi: PATRIOT in English 27 May 81 p 8

[Text]

UNION Deputy Finance Minister Maganbhai Barot has told chairmen of nationalised banks that they would be held responsible as much as the officials for any negative attitude in giving soft loans to weaker sections of society, report agencies.

At a press conference here, he cited the example of an agent of a bank in rural Gujarat, who was suspended recently for denying credit to 80 applicants, mostly Harijans, who wanted to buy buffaloes.

The applicants, Mr Barot said, were eligible for the loan and the agent had contended that recovery of such loans was poor and that he had not been given instructions from higher authorities.

However, the Minister believed that the recovery from the poor generally was not complainable.

He said the banking system in the country had almost achieved its target of soft loans lending to the weaker sections under the differential rate of interest (DRI) scheme.

Mr Barot said the target of DRI loans had been one per cent of the total loans made by the

banks. By the end of December 1980, the banks have been able to lent about 0.94 per cent of the target.

Mr Barot said that till the end of December 1980, Rs 69 crores have been lent under DRI scheme to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The DRI loans carry an interest of only 4 per cent. In the case of the weaker sections, like Harijans, tribals, agricultural labour, rural artisans etc., the loans were given without any property hypothecation. Only demand promissory note was enough.

The Government had now fixed a new target for agricultural loans. By the end of 1980, loans to the agricultural sector should be 18 per cent of total bank advances. It had also been decided to achieve 50 per cent of this target by the end of 1982, he said.

BJP MEMBERS ARRESTED IN DEMONSTRATION AGAINST PRICES

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 26 May 81 p 5

[Text] Bombay, May 25. Thousands of members of the Bharatiya Janata Party courted arrest, here today, protesting against the rise in prices. The party put the figure of those arrested around 6,000, while the police gave the figure as 2,300.

The members, led by Mr Arif Beg, All-India secretary, were picked up in waiting police vans near Churchgate for defying the order banning the assembly of more than five persons.

According to the party, nearly 50,000 satyagrahis had courted arrest in 250 places in the state as part of the party's country-wide agitation on the issue.

There were nearly 1,000 women among the demonstrators in Bombay who were on their way from Azad Maidan to Mantralaya. The leaders' idea of presenting a memorandum to the chief minister was foiled by the police.

Among those who participated in the morcha were Mr Ram Naik, president of the Bombay unit of the party, Mrs Jayawantiben Mehta, Mr Wamanrao Parab, Mr Hashu Advani and Mr Madhu Deolekar.

Pune (UNI): Nearly 200 Bharatiya Janata Party workers, including 46 women, were taken into custody on Monday when they demonstrated in front of the district collectorate and other offices here as part of the party's nation-wide anti-price rise agitation.

The collector, Mr Nand Lal, told UNI that the demonstrators were not allowed to submit any memorandum.

Among those arrested were Dr Arvind D. Lele, MLA, the BJP city unit president, Mr Shankarrao Yadav, Mr A. Rehman and Nanaasheb Pashankar, vice-presidents and Pune municipal corporation standing committee chairman, Kaka Vadke.

Sangli (UNI): About 150 BJP supporters were arrested here on Monday for violating ban orders during the party's agitation against price rise, the police said.

The break-up of the arrests was Sangli 70, Miraj 48 and Islampur 32.

Jaipur (PTI): Five hundred Bhartiya Janata Party workers, led by the former Union minister of state for finance, Mr Satish Agarwal, and the vice-president of the Rajasthan unit of the BJP, Mr Mehboob Ali, courted arrest here on Monday in protest against corruption in the administration, rising prices and the deteriorating law and order situation in the country.

Chandigarh (UNI): Women, some of them with babes in arms, were among the 100 BJP workers who courted arrest near the Chandigarh secretariat here.

The slogan-shouting BJP demonstrators, led by its president, Mr Ram Sarup Sharma, took out a procession before they courted arrest.

Cochin (PTI): Mr G. Shandari, all-India vice-president of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Mr Jagopal, state party chief, and Mrs M. Devaki Amma, president of the party's wing of the state party, were among the hundreds of BJP leaders and workers who were arrested by the police for picketing Central and State government offices today in Kerala.

While Mr Shandari and Mrs Devaki Amma courted arrest along with hundreds of party workers in Kasargode town in north Kerala by picketting a Central Government office there, Mr Rajagopal was arrested along with several of his party workers for picketing a state government office in Kozhikode.

Thane: Nearly 120 BJP workers, led by the Thane M.P., Mr Rambhau Mhalgi, courted arrest in Thane today as part of the party's countrywide agitation.

There were 25 women among the demonstrators who were picked up near the collectorate at Jambli Naka, reports our correspondent.

Similar demonstrations were held in Kalyan, Ulhasnagar and other places in the district. Among those arrested were Mr P. Kapse and Mr Sheetal Das Marchandani, both BJP MLAs.

Nagpur (UNI): About 300 BJP workers courted arrest here on Monday. Earlier the workers took out a procession which was stopped by the police at All India Radio square.

Aurangabad (UNI): About 500 BJP workers on Monday courted arrest in six districts of Marathwada region, while protesting against the price rise.

Mr Mohan Patil, deputy superintendent (CID), Aurangabad range, told UNI that a "low" response was received to the "jail bhare andolan" of the BJP in the region.

Morches were taken out in Aurangabad, Jalna, Majalgaon, Beed, Ambajogai, Oarbhani, Gangakhed and some other places. Information about the total number of arrests is awaited.

The BJP leaders claimed that about 5,000 workers courted arrest.

FRG DELEGATION REPORTS ON INVESTMENT CLIMATE IN NATION

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 26 May 81 p 10

[Text] Bombay, May 25 (UNI): The German Federation of Industry delegation of the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG), led by Dr K. Hansen, which visited India in November, has said that the Indian investment climate is much better than reported earlier.

The Indo-German Chamber of Commerce has released extracts of the delegation's report.

The report said the FRG industry should give much more weightage to India than it has so far done in its plans and proposals for economic cooperation with Asian countries. The overall economic and political significance of India in the East-Asian region must be rated very highly, it added.

The delegation said that it was pointed out to it by some German firms that the possibilities for financing of projects on favourable terms were much better in India than in many other countries of the third world like Latin America.

Pointing out that the costs of software preparation in India were only about 25 per cent of the corresponding costs in the FRG, the delegation said that there were possibilities for useful division of labour between the two countries in the 'area of software.'

The report said a number of FRG firms, which had their own production facilities in India for long, had referred to their own favourable experiences. For them, India had proved to be a reliable partner for cooperation.

The delegation said besides reasonably good profits, India offered good scope for the manufacture of labour-intensive products under sub-contracts or job work arrangements.

The delegation said there were welcome indications of some liberalisations in the conditions applicable to foreign companies and of growing flexibility in the approach of Indian authorities within the present legislative framework.

Especially during the last few months, the government policy has shown itself to be quite pragmatic. This may be seen in the reduction of export obligations imposed earlier, it added. The delegation said cooperation with the public sector enterprises was also considered to have been encouraging although it was in a few cases somewhat complicated as compared to dealing with private sector firms. As for business with the public sector, its reliability was highlighted prominently.

GANDHI URGES CONSENSUS ON FAMILY PLANNING ISSUE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 26 May 81 p 20

[Text] New Delhi, May 25 (UNI): The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, today sought the cooperation of all opposition parties to evolve a national consensus on family planning which she said was essential for the speedy progress of the country.

Noting regretfully what she called "political, partisan and sectional" controversies over the programme, Mrs Gandhi said: "Population is a human problem and needs the cooperation of all."

Mrs Gandhi was glad that several sections of the opposition had endorsed the need for a national consensus.

She said: "Let us leave them (the controversies) and move forward together, agree on incentives and inducements" in taking family planning to the masses.

Mrs Gandhi was inaugurating here the first national conference of parliamentarians on problems of population and development. She hoped the deliberations would signal the start of a new mass movement of determination and effective action.

No Compulsion

She made it clear that her government was totally committed to voluntary family planning. "We have been and are firmly against compulsion."

Referring to some adverse propaganda, Mrs Gandhi said inquiries had revealed that the complaints pertained to individual cases. Taken in totality in the context of such a massive programme, their number was insignificant.

Mrs Gandhi said the time had come to revamp and revitalise the family planning programme. She called for adoption of a new communications strategy to reach the masses. This should form an integral part of a comprehensive programme.

She wanted the programme to be flexible. It should provide for the economic well-being of a family as well. While drawing up the programme special care must be taken to ensure that it conformed to local customs and traditions.

"Family planning cannot succeed without parallel changes in the social system," she said. In making family planning a mass movement, formal and non-formal education, easy and ready access to information and changes in attitude and behavior were equally vital.

People must be convinced that population growth was not conducive to their socio-economic development, she added.

She felt non-terminal methods should be popularised especially in the rural areas among newly-married couples.

Reiterating that her government attached great importance to the programme, the Prime Minister said it had an increased allocation of Rs 1,000 crores in the sixth plan which was entirely funded by the Centre.

She said her government was interested in research in this field and hoped the experts would soon be able to develop a contraceptive that was reversible and safe. She said family planning should be shared effort and not made a burden on women alone.

Admitting that the programme had only been 'marginally successful' till now, Mrs Gandhi singled out Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and Kerala for having done well in this regard.

Census Figures

The recent census has "shocked us all" and our population was now 683 million. As per the statistics, the family planning programme had prevented 37 million births in the past decade. She said strategies for death control had been more successful than birth control.

Earlier, the health minister, Mr B. Shankaranand, said not only improper approaches but also coercion had been eschewed in an effort to limit families.

"We have always been for voluntary acceptance of the family planning programme," he said.

Stressing that family planning was inevitable and important in the nation's development, Mr Shankaranand said their goal was to give all information to couples to enable them to limit and space their children.

The Lok Sabha speaker, Mr Balram Jakhar, who presided, said parliamentarians and legislators who could feel the pulse of the people had a pivotal role to play through motivation for population control must come from the people themselves.

CSO: 4220

ASSAM TALKS STALL ON DEFINITION OF 'ENTRANTS'

Madras THE HINDU in English 26 May 81 p 1

[Excerpt] New Delhi, May 25. The Assam talks on the foreign national issue got stuck today on the definition of "authorised entrants" during the decade 1961-71.

At a 90-minute meeting with senior Government officials, the negotiating groups of the All-Assam Gana Sangram Parishad (AAGSP) and the All-Assam Students' Union (AASU) sought clarifications on the definition of "authorised entrants."

They contended that while they were willing to accommodate 2.14 lakh registered refugees from Bangladesh who entered during 1961-71, Assam could not bear the burden of the others who had illegally infiltrated into the State.

Therefore, they wanted that the expression "authorised entrants" should mean only the registered refugees.

Meanwhile, official sources said the Government would not like to spell out in detail the exact definition of authorised entrants. In the Government's view all those who were covered by policy instructions issued at the time should be treated as authorised entrants.

1964 Instructions

It would be recalled that in the wake of the communal disturbances in erstwhile East Pakistan in early 1964, the border was thrown open for refugees fleeing their homes and seeking shelter in India.

The Centre had issued policy directives to the States bordering Bangladesh to permit such persons to enter. Not much by way of rehabilitation was done by the Government and most of these refugees fended for themselves.

The Government view is that all such persons, whether they are registered as refugees or not, should be deemed authorised entrants.

The Government has conceded that all unauthorised persons who entered Assam during 1961-71 would be shifted elsewhere. According to informed sources it has also agreed that such persons would not be given full citizenship for a period of five years.

In reality no one may have to be shifted for the definition of authorised entrants is likely to cover almost all those who had to come to India from Bangladesh (then East Pakistan) because of communal disturbances.

There is however a relatively smaller number of people--between 70,000 and one lakh--who would not be covered by the policy instructions given by the Centre during 1961-71 to give shelter to fleeing refugees.

These people belong to the majority community in Bangladesh, but it is unlikely that after the lapse of so many years the Government would like to throw them out of the hearths and homes they have built in Assam.

Both AASU and AAGSP leaders were tight-lipped on the trend of the talks today. The impression one got was that they were no longer very optimistic about striking a deal which meets their expectations.

But both sides were equally keen that the talks should continue. The Government obviously does not want to face the opprobrium of breaking off the dialogue.

Meanwhile, a senior Home Ministry official today told a deputation of the Citizens' Rights Preservation Committee, Assam, that the Government had made no commitment to shift "unauthorised refugees" from Assam.

The Government did not however issue any statement contradicting stories to this effect in the press today. On the contrary the Government maintained total silence about the deliberations of the tripartite negotiating committee.

CSO: 4220

REPORT ON SINGH'S SPEECH TO WORLD FOOD COUNCIL

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 May 81 p 3

[Text] Novisad Yugoslavia, May 26 (UNI) India has proposed a twin formula in the wake of 'bleak' prospects of concluding a new international wheat trade convention.

'We should call it a day,' if no agreement is reached on resumption of negotiations for the purpose at the meeting of the International wheat council in Madrid at the end of next month, Union Agriculture Minister Rao Birendra Singh told the seventh ministerial session of the World Food Council here.

Continuance of the 'so called informal consultations' were liable to prove once again to be 'an exercise in escapism,' he said.

In the absence of a new wheat trade convention, the five-point plan of action of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) to mitigate the severity of food shortages should be regarded as a continuing framework of policies for guiding the countries of the world in safeguarding their food security, Mr Birendra Singh suggested.

Mr Birendra Singh said the root of the problem in regard to resumption of negotiations for a new convention lays in the divergence between the interests of major exporting countries and developing importing countries in regard to the modalities of establishing and operating an internationally coordinated global reserve and the nature of the special provisions, including the setting up of a stock financing fund, for developing countries.

Referring to the world food security, Mr Birendra Singh said a 'glaring omission' in the policy framework being considered by the council was non-inclusion of adequate fertiliser aid to developing countries, in particular through the FAO fertiliser supply scheme.

He underscored in this context Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's suggestion to FAO to initiate a move for an international agreement on the limitation of the prices of strategic agricultural inputs.

Commending the proposal for a world development fund contained in the international development strategy, Mr Birendra Singh said the Council should bring this proposal to the attention of the UN Secretary General for consideration so that report on it could be made available at 36th session of the UN General Assembly.

On development assistance, particularly to low income developing countries, Mr Birendra Singh said the emergence of OPEC countries as a substantial source of assistance was a welcome development.

Prospects of increase in the current account surplus of oil exporting countries to about 120 billion dollars in 1980 and their readiness to provide quick disbursing assistance and convert the OPEC fund into a development agency for developing countries could certainly bring about a 'dramatic improvement' in the situation.

CSO: 4220

UTTAR PRADESH TAKES STEPS FOR HILLS DEVELOPMENT

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 May 81 p 4

[Text] Lucknow, May 26--The Uttar Pradesh Government has given administrative powers to the Hill Development Secretary so as to provide momentum to developmental activities in the hills and ensure their effective implementation.

At the departmental level, the concerned officers have been made responsible for the development work in the hill areas.

According to the directives issued by the State Government, the Hill Development Secretary will make annual entries in the character rolls of officers appointed or nominated for planned programmes in the hill areas and the joint or deputy development commissioners of Kumaon and Garhwal divisions. The assessment will have much to do with the formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of schemes and programmes in the hills.

According to the new directives, any decisions on the representation against the assessment of the officers appointed or nominated at the department level will be taken only either by the Chief Secretary or the Chief Minister through the Hill Development Department. The representation against the assessment of the divisional officers will be considered by the Development Secretary.

The Government has allotted Rs 2 lakh to scheduled castes in the hill regions for raising orchards.

The districts of Nainital, Almora, Dehradun, Chamoli, Pauri Garhwal Uttarkashi Pithoragarh and Tehri Garhwal have been allotted Rs 25000 each for the purpose.

CSO: 4220

THUMBA LAUNCHING STATION THREATENED BY EROSION

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 May 81 pp 1, 7

[Text] Bombay, May 26 (UNI)—The vital coastal installations of the country's prestigious Thumba equatorial rocket launching station, at Thumba, near Trivandrum, are threatened with sea erosion.

Though it is four years since the National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) alerted the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre's (VSSC) authorities about the vulnerability of the installations to sea erosion, no remedial measures had yet been taken to protect them, reliable sources told UNI.

The installations facing danger are the control centre, launching pads, static test facilities and transmitting stations.

NIO scientists express the fear that even rocket launching could be affected in future due to "foundation failures" of the shore installations. "The problems can be serious during the monsoon when meteorological rockets are invariably fired from the station," they contend.

The caution was given in study report conducted by NIO at the request of VSSC, to suggest suitable remedial measures to protect these vital coastal installations, when they were alarmed by the severe erosion to the foundations of some of these installations situated along the Thumba beach in 1973. A similar erosion occurred in 1976 also.

The NIO team of scientists at its Cochin regional centre which carried out the field investigation, discovered that the width of the beach, had shrunk to 60 metres at stations "one, two and three." "Shoreline recession takes place all along the Thumba beach during the monsoon and particularly at stations two and three. The erosion is at its maximum during August," the report warns.

"There is significant transport of sand in both the onshore and offshore directions due to seasonal variation in the wave climate. The erosion of the beach was due to the attack of steeper waves with relatively high energy for a short period of time during the southwest monsoon when sand transport takes place predominantly in the offshore direction, a report, published in NIO's latest official journal MAHASAGAR, says.

The report says "the net sediment budget computed showed that 83000 cubic metre of beach material had been lost from the beach during the observation period from April 1976 to March 1977.

The study team comprising Mr Narayanaswamy, Mr Varma, Mr Rama Raju, and Mr Chandramohan, which again in 1979 studied the wave climate of the beach, reveals in the report that erosion occurred in the beach in February and March and from June to August.

To ward off the danger to the shore establishments, the NIO scientists recommended that all future installations concerning the rocket launching station should be located at a safe distance from the beach. The constructions should be at least 50 metres landward of the "baseline demarcated by marked pillars."

"Any structure to be built seaward of this boundary should be founded on piles driven sufficiently deep into the sub-soil so that the structure installed on them remains quite safe even under worse sea conditions," the report recommends.

NIO has given an indigenous design for constructing "permanent structure" to protect the shoreline in front of the most vital installation, the control centre, and a design for a "semi-permanent" type protective structure for the beach in front of the static test facility and the launching pads.

CSO: 4220

WRITER TELLS STATUS OF DEFENSE AIRCRAFT SEARCH

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 28 May 81 p 8

[Article by Inder Malhotra: "Air Defense in the 90s: Some Crucial Considerations"]

[Text]

INDIA's air defense is much too serious a matter to be discussed merely in terms of the "Jaguar versus Mirage" controversy. But unfortunately this is what most people have tended to do. However, now that the Union government has made up its mind to disown the manufacturing part of the Jaguar deal but not yet committed itself to the Mirage 2000, it should be possible to look at the issue more dispassionately and in broader perspective than has been the case so far.

Before arguing about what should or should not be done, it is necessary to be clear about what exactly has actually happened. Under the Jaguar agreement, signed with Britain during the Janata regime, it was envisaged that 40 Jaguars will be imported in fly-away condition and another 45 assembled at HAL in Bangalore from imported components and sub-sections. Thereafter the indigenous production of this aircraft under license was to start though the agreement allowed India to opt out of this part of the deal on payment of a relatively small penalty. This option the present government is about to exercise.

The rest of the Jaguar programme will not only be adhered to but in fact enlarged. The number of the Jaguars to be assembled at Bangalore will be increased sufficiently to give the air force a complement of 116 Jaguars by 1987. There will be a similar stepping up of the number of Mig-23 fighter aircraft now being acquired from the Soviet Union. Later there will be produced within this country by improving the existing facilities for the production

of Mig-23s.

The rationale behind these steps is that they will fill the gap caused by the cancellation of the Jaguar production programme and thus give the IAF the necessary capability to cope with the threats that are looming on the horizon until arrangements can be made for the acquisition and subsequent production of a more modern combat aircraft suitable for the needs of the nation.

MIRAGE

At one time it seemed that the cancellation of the production phase of the Jaguar aircraft will be automatically followed by the decision to go in for the Mirage 2000, under development in France itself at present and test-flown there by a team of Indian experts. In fact, Mr. Marcel Dassault, chairman of the Mirage's manufacturers, M's. Marcel Dassault-Breuet Aviation, publicly stated early in April that his firm had all but struck a deal with India.

But official sources here are quite right in emphasizing that no decision has yet been taken. This is because things have changed in France since Mr. Dassault spoke as a result of Mr. Giscard d'Estaing's defeat at the hands of Mr. Mitterrand. For one thing, the new French president is determined to nationalise the aviation company of Mr. Dassault. For another, while all French governments are bound to be anxious to maximise French arms exports, President Mitterrand's defence and arms sales policies have yet to take shape. This may take some time because of his pre-

occupation with other pressing matters.

Moreover, one of the attractions of the Mirage offer, spelt out during President Giscard's visit to this country in January 1980, was the French willingness to embark on wide-ranging Indo-French co-operation in areas of critical importance to both countries. There is no knowing whether the same understanding will be possible with the new administration in Paris.

All this is bound to encourage the manufacturers of the Jaguar to push the case for its successor, the Tornado, which, according to official sources, is also under consideration, along with the Mirage 2000, as the multi-role combat aircraft of the 90's but it remains to be seen how the British will get out of their earlier position that HAL would not be able to produce the Tornado without first having cut its teeth on the Jaguar.

However, the choice need not be confined to these two aircraft, both of which are extremely costly. And yet the alternative proposal that the same role can be filled by the far less expensive Mig-23, already being imported in small numbers, is open to the objection that this would make India excessively dependent on one country and run counter to the government's policy to diversify the sources of its defence requirements.

But not merely the question of cost-effectiveness and the need for diversification but also some other crucial considerations such as the operational needs, the likely scenario to be faced by the air force in the next decade, the competing demands on available resources for modern-

mining other areas of air defence and so on must be fully taken into account before a decision is taken one way or the other.

FOOLPROOF

In some situations the military need for a weapon or some equipment may be so pressing as to override the considerations of cost. In other cases it may be advisable to save vast sums of money even at some slight risk. Similarly, the doctrine of diversification can also lose much of its force in certain circumstances. After all the decision to acquire the T-72 tank was taken because the comparable British tank was at least three times more costly and the Soviet credit terms far more favourable. Of paramount importance, however, is the supplier's willingness to transfer the technology for the production of the weapon system it is selling.

Against this backdrop, the real worth of any warplane for this country will depend on how far it fits into the overall requirements of those on whom will fall the awesome responsibility to defend the skies in the next decade. By then Pakistan will have acquired nuclear capability. Even the existing planes in service in PAF can reach such tempting targets as the Banihal tunnel in Kashmir, the atomic energy establishment in Bombay, the Koyali oil complex and so on. The F-16s promised to it by the Reagan administration will bring within Pakistan's reach several other places, including the Ranapratap Sagar nuclear power station.

Merely to state this is to stress that a virtually foolproof early-warning air defence system will soon become a matter of life and death for this country, quite apart from whatever other steps it takes to cope with Pakistan's nuclear challenge. In other words, a heavy investment in sophisticated surveillance equipment, radar-operated anti-aircraft guns and a new network of sophisticated surface-to-air missiles must have priority number one.

A strong fleet of interceptors, largely of the Mig family, will also be needed to take care of such enemy aircraft as might succeed in intruding into Indian air space. The Mig-25 can play an important role in this by virtue of its versatility. It can act as both a reconnaissance aircraft and a fighter at the same time.

With the mounting cost of

ground-support attack aircraft their role is being transferred all over the world to helicopters which are good at handling anti-tank missiles. This country will also have to build up a fleet of missile-bearing helicopters and incidentally acquire anti-tank missiles like TOWs which it unfortunately lacks at present. In fact, the leeway to be made up in military of various types is larger than is generally realised.

CAUTION

Since all this will have to be done in conjunction with the equally necessary modernisation of the other two armed forces, the pressure on scarce resources should not be difficult to imagine. All the more reason, therefore, that commitments involving heavy expenditure are not made in a hurry.

The Mirage-2000 bids fair to be an excellent combat aircraft and may eventually pave the way for the even more futuristic Mirage-4000. But at Rs. 20 crore a piece, at the present reckoning, it is also horrendously expensive. Since at least 150 aircraft will have to be acquired, initially through an outright purchase and later by indigenous assembly and manufacture, the issue of cost-effectiveness of the Mirage will have to be looked into more closely than it apparently has been.

The question cannot be settled by the inspired hunches of the air marshals or the preferences of the politicians who can at best devote only limited time and attention to it. It is pertinent to point out that even as the government at the highest level was deciding to cancel a part of the Jaguar deal, the air force was reaffirming its satisfaction with the aircraft and its performance. Similarly, at the time the Janata government clinched the deal in Jaguar's favour, the air force collectively had endorsed this choice but there were some in its ranks who openly expressed their preference for the Mirage. (Incidentally the Mirage-2000 was not in the picture, then; only the Mirage-F-1 was under discussion.)

There can be no more powerful argument against rushing to a decision on the Mirage-2000 now than that the government has found it necessary partially to cancel the Jaguar deal finalised less than three years ago.

BOMBAY HIGH OPENING MARKS STEP IN ONGC PROGRAM

Madras THE HINDU in English 28 May 81 p 8

[Article by C. V. Gopalakrishnan]

[Text] The commissioning of the Bombay High North platform marks the completion of the third phase of ONGC's production programme to step up offshore oil output.

The formal commissioning of the Bombay High North (BHN) platform today by Mr A. R. Antulay, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, marks a major stage in the progress achieved by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission in the Bombay High offshore exploration and production since oil was discovered there seven years ago.

The magnitude of the achievement in off-shore oil production by ONGC in the Bombay High can be seen from a contrast of projections made in the 1980-85 Sixth Plan document for oil production with what ONGC hopes to achieve in the Bombay High.

The target domestic oil production both by ONGC and Oil India for 1984-85 is 21.6 million tonnes out of which 13.2 million tonnes will come from offshore. The commissioning of the BHN platform has enabled ONGC to achieve a rate of production amounting to 153,000 barrels of oil a day amounting to 7.5 million tonnes a year. This will be stepped upto 180,000 barrels a day by October 1, 1981 and 200,000 barrels a day by January 1982 and 220,000 barrels by April 1982.

The target off-shore production from the Bombay High for 1981-82 is 8.4 million tonnes a year. This corresponds to the target laid down in the Sixth Plan for 1981-82.

Another Platform

ONGC, however, hopes to achieve a substantial acceleration of Bombay High off-shore production in the subsequent years after commissioning another huge production platform. Bombay High South (BHS), now being fabricated by a consortium of Japanese companies and due for delivery in May 1982.

The commissioning of the BHS will enable ONGC to step up its output from the Bombay High and the other satellite oilfields to about 19 million tonnes a year by 1984-85, while the actual rate of production is expected to be much higher, corresponding to an annual production of between 20 and 21 million tonnes.

If onshore production by both ONGC and Oil India remains at the same level of 8.4 million tonnes, the 19 million tonnes from offshore will take the total production up to about 28 million tonnes as against the 21.6 million tonnes in 1984-85 projected in the Sixth Plan document.

All these sound promising. However, even if ONGC is going to produce 19 million tonnes from the Bombay High and its satellite offshore oil fields and steps up total oil production to 28 million tonnes by 1984-85, it is not going to take the country very far.

By 1984-85, the projected total oil requirements are 52 million tonnes, and there will still be a gap of 24 million tonnes. Is there any hope of India ever being able "to make the supply curve converge with the demand curve?" If so, how quickly can this be done?

Investment

Before trying to answer this question it is necessary to remember that even in respect of the 19 million tonnes which ONGC hopes to produce from the Bombay High, it will need far more support from the Planning Commission than it has been promised so far.

So far the investment made on the Bombay High offshore exploration and production programme since the discovery of oil there in 1974 has been Rs 1,300 crores and if ONGC is to live up to its promises of achieving a production of 19 million tonnes by 1984-85, it will need an additional investment of Rs 3,300 crores at current prices. The total allocation made for the entire oil exploration and production programmes for both onshore and offshore production in the Sixth Plan is only Rs 2,873.58 crores.

In view of the highest priority which the Government is giving to augmenting indigenous oil production, Mr P. C. Sethi, Union Minister for Petroleum, Chemicals and Fertilizers, is hoping that the Planning Commission will make the additional allocations required by ONGC.

Since India needs a lot more oil than what it is obtaining from both its present producing oilfields both onshore and offshore, its hopes of getting it depend upon achieving greater production from the existing oilfields and from new areas. Focussing attention on the offshore areas only, it will be worthwhile to consider the prospects here.

Production Plateau

Is it possible to step up production from the Bombay High itself beyond the 19 million tonnes projected for 1984-85? The limitation here is the availability of

reserves in the Bombay High offshore area. The producible reserves are estimated at about 270 million tonnes. Fresh seismic surveys in the newer areas of and adjacent to Bombay High may step up this figure.

As the rate of production is stepped up, the reserves decline and the strategy preferred by the ONGC is to maintain a steady production plateau for a period of years instead of having a sharply ascending curve followed by a descending curve of production.

Even to achieve and maintain an annual level of production of 10 million tonnes, ONGC has to install a variety of sophisticated production facilities, principally water injection, for stepping up the rate of recoveries from the production wells. For this purpose, it has had the technological support from Compagnie Française des Pétroles (CFP) of France, with whom it had signed a four-year contract in 1977. This agreement is being extended.

At one stage it looked as though India might have to pay a stiff price for achieving a higher rate of production over and above the 13 million tonnes from the Bombay High projected for 1984-85, by way of a share in the additional oil to CFP. ONGC did not wish to agree to this and it seems to have had its way.

When ONGC decided to have a 'second opinion', Occidental Petroleum of U.S. was willing to give such opinion without seeking a share in the oil. CFP, it appears, has therefore, been persuaded to accept just a cash incentive and will continue to be engaged by ONGC as its consultants.

Godavari project

The other area full of promises of oil but where luck has still eluded ONGC is the Godavari offshore basin. The mud conditions and the high speed ocean currents have made drilling extremely difficult and ONGC proposes to engage a foreign company as its collaborator for executing the Godavari project.

There is yet a vast offshore continental shelf waiting to be explored, and requiring the deployment of resources far beyond what India can spare at the moment, if it wants quickly to tap all the oil they may hold. The constraint on resources—if not the capabilities of ONGC or Oil India—was the principal factor influencing the Government's decision to throw open as many as 35 blocks—17 of them offshore—to foreign companies for exploration with a promise of giving them a share in the oil produced. The intention was to reduce the strain on both ONGC and Oil India whose slender resources were getting stretched. Right now the outlook here does not seem to be very rosy though it may brighten later.

Foreign firms' response

The response from the 24 oil companies to whom the Petroleum Ministry addressed a letter setting out the terms the Government of India proposed to offer appears to have

been disappointing. Only a dozen companies have offered their preliminary bids and they have shown interest in about seven offshore blocks in spite of the fact that the Government was willing to offer a share in the oil produced.

What put them off? The companies which dropped out could not agree to the Government's condition that they should hand over to ONGC the blocks leased out to them within five years of discovery of oil and commencement of commercial production. This condition was stated to be non-negotiable in the Petroleum Ministry's letter and about 12 companies dropped out.

"And we wager," writes the Oil and Gas Journal, published from the U.K. in its issue dated April 27, 1981, "the rest will soon follow unless the Government recants, even then there would remain a cloud of doubt what the Government might do in the future."

Is the Government going to "recant"? According to present indications, the Government continues to be anxious to achieve a big expansion in the search for oil in India's continental shelf in its frantic efforts to reduce the crippling dependence on imported oil.

There is a hint that while the Petroleum Ministry would start negotiations with the companies which have already responded, there could be a "second round" of talks also with the other companies which had dropped out.

It will take not less than three to four years before new oil discoveries are made and production materialises from the new oilfields. Right now the Bombay High is the country's principal oil-producing region. It is, therefore, worth taking a look at the latest arrival on the Bombay High—BHN.

Bombay High North

BHN is the giant among the offshore installations which have surfaced in the waters of the Bombay High at a distance of about 250 km. from the Bombay coast. It stands on eight legs erected in a water depth of 73.15 metres and supported by eight piles driven to a depth of 100 metres into the seabed. It has a helicopter deck at the top and reaches to a dizzy height of 216.40 metres. It weighs 1,500 tonnes.

Apart from the other facilities for the processing of oil, the separation of associa-

fed gas pumped out with the oil, it has living quarters for 72 ONGC personnel and a modern kitchenette producing highly delicious food.

The BHN platform is the product of a turnkey job designed, fabricated, installed and commissioned by Oceanic Contractors, a subsidiary of the Dubai-based U.S. firm, J. R. McDermott.

The State-owned Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) are the consultants for the U.S. firm and they had a back-up from Cressing Engineering Inc. of U.S. while Det Norske Veritas (DNV) of Norway were engaged for certification of the platform. Lloyds of U.K. were engaged for the certification of the submarine pipelines connecting BHN to the shore terminal at Uran.

Cost of BHN

Work started on the fabrication of BHN in March 1979. The estimated cost of installing BHN is around Rs. 80 crores. The commissioning of BHN completes the second and final stage of the third phase of Bombay High production programme aimed at stepping up offshore oil output from 100,000 barrels a day (five million tonnes a year) to 180,000 barrels a day.

The fourth and fifth phases are now under implementation to raise the production to 240,000 barrels a day (12 million tonnes a year) by 1982. These two phases involve the installation of a still more massive platform, Bombay High South which is estimated to cost about Rs. 190 crores. It will accommodate 145 ONGC personnel.

ONGC's target production of 19 million tonnes a year by 1984-85 corresponding

to about 380,000 barrels a day will come from the intensified production of oil and gas from a large number of new wells which will be drilled by the existing and the additional drilling rigs which ONGC will be acquiring.

The oil produced by these drilling rigs will be pumped to BHN and BHS. ONGC has already acquired a drilling ship "Sagar Vides" made by Hitachi of Japan and another "Sagar Pragati" is due for delivery shortly.

ONGC has placed orders for two more drilling ships on Roben shipyard of Singapore due for delivery by the end of 1982. When they arrive, ONGC will have five drilling rigs including the "Sagar Samrat". Apart from this, it has placed orders for 20 well platforms, 10 of them to be supplied by foreign parties including Hitachi of Japan and ETPM of France.

LPG Output

The associated gas separated by the BHN separation compression and processing platform is now being delivered to the Liquefied Petroleum Gas fractionation plant at the ONGC's shore terminal at Uran through the submarine pipeline earlier laid by Brown and Root of U.S.

The plant which is India's first cryogenic plant went on stream on March 31 this year. It is now producing about 2,00,000 tonnes of LPG (cooking gas) while the other gases C3 and C4 separated by the Uran plant are going to the Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers plant at Trombay and the Tata Thermal Power station. When the plant attains its rated capacity of 2,00,000 tonnes of LPG, it will be possible to give new connections to as many as 10 lakh domestic consumers.

GOLD MINE EXPERIMENTS INDICATE PROTON DECAY

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 May 81 p 14

[Text] Kolar Gold Fields, May 28 (UNI)—Scientists engaged in an experiment in the depths of the gold mines here have recorded three "candidate clicks" indicating decay of protons, until now believed "absolutely stable."

A member of the investigating team said the experiment, begun last October would continue for four more years so as to record at least 15 "candidate clicks" to determine the rate of their decay.

The investigation team here had a clear lead of eight months over other teams studying the phenomenon elsewhere in the world, its main advantage being the depth of the mine.

British scientists describe the Indian discovery as sensational and believe that it may shatter traditional ideas about the origin of the universe and the nature of matter.

The experiment is being conducted by a group of scientists from the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR), Bombay, and Osaka City University and University of Tokyo, Japan. The Indian team is headed by Prof. M. G. K. Menon.

Mr N. K. Mondal, one of the team of investigators, told UNI here that the experiment, commenced in October last year, had shown "encouraging results." The experiment was prompted by the idea put forward by Nobel laureate Abdus Salam in 1973 and subsequently by internationally-known physicists Z. H. Georgi and S. L. Glashow in 1974 that protons did decay.

Novel Detector System

Mr Mondal said determination of the decay of protons would be extremely difficult since their life was estimated at ten to the power of 31 years. To circumvent the problem, the TIFR-Japanese team devised a detector system with 100 tonnes of iron as the source of nucleons and proportional radio-activity measuring counters.

In this manner, he said, there would be a very large number of protons and the probability of decay would be more. With the given matter and assuming that the life span of protons was correct, there would be ten events in a year. The experiment was being conducted at a depth of 2.3 km to eliminate the secondary

cosmic rays, the main source of undesirable background. Most of these rays, consisting mostly of muon particles would be stopped by the intervening rock. Mr Mondal said the investigating team had so far recorded three of the rare events, also called "candidate clicks."

He said, "The results so far have shown that we are on the right track to confirming the proton decay idea." However, at least 15 events would have to be recorded before the theory was confirmed. The team planned to continue the experiment for four more years.

A UNI reporter who was taken 2.3 km down the main champion reef mine shaft spent 30 minutes with the scientists at the laboratory.

Mr Mondal explained that the basic detector elements were the proportional counters constructed of hollow iron shells. The counters could be seen arranged in horizontal layers with iron plates of 12 mm thickness in between. The whole detector would accommodate 35 such layers requiring 1650 counters.

Mr Mondal said the purpose of using the iron was two-fold: It would act as a source of nucleons and it would work as an energy absorber for the secondary particles produced in the decay of nucleons.

CSO: 4220

OIL MINISTER SPEAKS AT OPENING OF LPG PLANT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 May 81 p 1

[Text]

BOMBAY, May 28.

ABOUT 2.5 million new connections for domestic gas will be allowed in the next two and a half years thus clearing the entire waiting list in the country.

This was stated today by Mr P. C. Sethi, Union minister for petroleum and chemicals, while presiding over the inaugural function of the ONGC's liquidated petroleum gas plant at Uran, in Raigad district near Bombay. The plant was inaugurated by the chief minister, Mr A. B. Antulay, who hails from the same district.

The Rs. 65-crore plant of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission, would produce gas for about 18,000 cylinders a day. It is the first of its kind in the country extracting LPG from natural gas — in this case, gas based on the Bombay High.

Mr. Sethi said, at present, people in various parts of the country had to wait for two to three months for getting gas. This wait would over be soon and instructions had been given to allow one million new connections every year.

Earlier, the minister paid homage to Mr. K. D. Malaviya, former Union petroleum minister, for doing a great deal in trying to fulfil Jawaharlal Nehru's dream of the country achieving self-sufficiency in oil. He said Mr. Malaviya had done pioneering work in the field of oil exploration.

Mr. Sethi said against the present world energy crisis, it was very important to increase oil output in the country and in this connection the ONGC was doing good work.

He also said it was proposed to create a welfare fund for the ONGC employees and would hold talks in this connection with the union leader, Mr. Raja Kulkarni.

Mr. Antulay, who spoke in Marathi, said Maharashtra should get its rightful share of the oil recently struck on the Konkan coast so that the benefits went to the poor.

He described the oil find as God's gift. The chief minister made it clear that other parts of the country too could get their share of the oil but only after meeting Maharashtra's needs.

Mr. Lokesh Kumar, secretary, petroleum resources, said the plant designed and being operated by Indian experts was a remarkable achievement. He said the plant would not create any pollution problem. It was also decided to plant a number of trees in the barren area around it to make it green.

Mr. P. T. Venugopal, ONGC chairman, welcomed the gathering.

Earlier, the chief minister inaugurated a new ONGC platform in Bombay High North which will increase the processing capacity to 180,000 barrels of oil and 2.1 m M³ of gas per day.

SOVIET OIL EXPERT SAYS INDIA HAS ENOUGH OIL

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 May 81 p 2

[Text] A renowned Soviet oil expert is convinced that West Bengal, Cambay basin, the region of Ankleshwar, Punjab and Assam could provide substantial oil, reports PTI.

In an interview to APN in Moscow, Prof N. A. Kalinin emphasised his belief that India has sufficient natural resources of oil and gas for meeting the requirements of her economy.

India can extract oil up to 35 million tonnes and gas up to 37 million cubic metres yearly and maintain his level of extraction for 25 years, he says.

Prof Kalinin feels that the rate of increment of reserves and growth in extraction do not reflect the assessment of prospects.

He suggests activation of idle wells, mechanical operation of gushing wells and the digging of comparatively not deep wells in the recurrent oil bearing levels in Assam, Gujarat and other areas.

The Soviet expert says the credit for the successful formation of the national oil and gas industry in India goes to late Jawaharlal Nehru and Mr K. D. Malaviya, former Minister of Petroleum now lying critically ill in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences. It was on the basis of the first study of India's oil and gas prospects by the Soviet team headed by Prof Kalinin that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) was set up.

Speaking on the uncertainties that surrounded the birth of the ONGC against the advice of world oil experts, Prof Kalinin says he understood how difficult it was for Nehru to take a decision but as I was deeply confident of the success I did not stint on promises.

CSO: 4220

EXPANSION PROGRAM FOR GOA SHIPYARD ANNOUNCED

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 27 May 81 p 7

[Text] Panaji, May 26: Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL), the leading builder of medium-sized vessels and sophisticated fishing trawlers on the west coast, will shortly embark on the third phase of its expansion. This programme includes the building of a dry dock and a wharf.

When completed, these additional facilities will enable the GSL to handle ships up to 8,000 DWT. The yard already provides repair facilities to bulk-carriers and other larger ships calling at Mormugao harbour and maintains a 24-hour self-propelled, floating workshop to aid all ships calling at this port.

The construction of the dry dock and the wharf will indeed prove a boon to the shipping industry.

Phenomenal Progress

The GSL's current plans for growth and diversification are born of its phenomenal progress in the past two decades. A former Portuguese facility for repair and maintenance of barges carrying iron ore from Goa's mines to Mormugao harbour, the yard was taken over by the government of India after liberation and leased to Mazagon Dock, Bombay, and was run as its branch until 1967.

Since 1967, when the GSL became a separate company, it has maintained steady progress. This is reflected in its annual report for 1979-80. The company's turnover, which was Rs 270.09 lakhs in 1975-76, had risen to Rs 615 lakhs in 1979-80. It declared a dividend of six per cent to shareholders on the paid-up capital of Rs 192.44 lakhs.

Vice-Admiral N. P. Datta, chairman of the GSL, has reported that the company's turnover for the year ended March, 1981, is estimated at Rs 775 lakhs, and, in the current financial year, it has set an ambitious target of Rs 1,000 lakhs.

The GSL has already completed two phases of expansion. Under the first, it built four slipways, three production and assembly bays and ancillary shops and other facilities.

Under the second, a fitting-out jetty was added, besides a capital dredging of the yard's water-frontage, enabling vessels of over four metres draught to berth alongside for fitting out and repair work.

At present, the company is working on extending slipway No. four by adding two side-arms to it to enable vessels up to five metres draught to dock. Another facility--an electronic workshop to test the installation and repair to sophisticated electronic equipment on board new ships/crafts, and also [as published] those in service--will also be added shortly.

The GSL has been recommended by White Fish Authority of the U.K. for development as a leading yard to build exploratory fishing vessels (EFVs) for India's marine resources exploitation programme.

The Norwegian ambassador, Mr P. Gulowsen, revealed at the time of launching "Matuya Vishva" on May 19 that originally this series of six EFVs were to be built in Norway, but the foreign collaborator favoured the GSL, looking to its sophisticated facilities. Thanks to this decision, the GSL became the first shipyard in the country to build EFVs for the ministry of agriculture

Variety of Vessels

As Vice-Admiral Datta pointed out on the same occasion, highly sophisticated equipment and skilled manpower were assembled at the shipyard for the EFV programme under the Indo-Norwegian boat building programme (INBNP). Now the continuation of the programme is in doubt, and he feared that much of this capacity would have to be diverted, unless the government of India ordered further EFVs, or others in the industry exploited this surplus capacity.

The GSL has so far built a variety of vessels--landing crafts, torpedo recovery boats, deepsea fishing vessels for survey and training, survey craft and seaward defence boats for the Indian Navy, pontoons for the Democratic Republic of South Yemen, self-propelled barges with capacity to carry 500 tonnes of ore, and lately the 36-metre-long deep-sea EFVs.

CSO: 4220

OFFICIALS SEE IMPROVED WHEAT PROCUREMENT PROSPECTS

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 27 May 81 p 9

[Article by G. K. Pandey: "Wheat Procurement Up After PM's Visit"]

[Text] New Delhi, May 26. Prospects of wheat procurement have considerably brightened, judging from the substantial increase in the rate of procurement since Mrs Gandhi's recent visit to Chandigarh. According to information reaching Krishi Bhavan, wheat purchases during the past few days have gone up by nearly 1.5 lakh tonnes daily.

If this trend is sustained over the next few weeks, official circles believe it might be possible to procure around seven million tonnes of wheat. Earlier, even an optimistic estimate placed the wheat procurement at just around 6.5 million tonnes.

According to official circles here, the target of 9.5 million tonnes was based on the wheat production data supplied by the state governments. The centre, at the time of fixing these targets, had consulted the state governments which had promised to mobilise their official machinery to hit the respective targets.

Larger procurement of wheat had assumed paramount importance with increasing demand for larger stocks from the state governments. Under the national food policy, the government is expected to have 12 million tonnes of buffer stocks and another six million tonnes of operational stocks, but at the beginning of the current financial year, the stocks had dwindled to about 11 million tonnes.

The government had at first curtailed wheat supplies drastically under the food-for-work programme, and subsequently stopped supplies of foodgrain under this programme.

The latest official estimate places wheat production at over 36 million tonnes--an all-time record. But in spite of this, procurement would in all probability be less than the eight million tonnes achieved during 1978-79, when the total output was 35 million tonnes.

The fact remains that the target of 9.5 million tonnes could have been attained, but for serious lapses on the part of major wheat-growing states of Punjab and Haryana. These states, instead of taking up the challenge of procurement seriously, adopted a complacent attitude. Besides, in their attempts to please the

kulak lobby, they were trying till the last moment to get a further hike in the procurement price, though the government had allowed an increase of Rs 13 a quintal in the procurement price for the current marketing season.

The political rivals and the trade took full advantage of the situation prevailing in these states, where a large number of transactions have taken place outside the mandis. Thus, while the state governments are now making frantic efforts to plug leakage of foodgrains, private trade has already succeeded in moving out huge quantities of wheat. Knowledgeable sources, however, are of the view that even now large stocks are being held by prosperous cultivators in these states, with a view to making an extra buck.

It has to be seen how the political leadership in Punjab and Haryana is able to tackle this problem. The Prime Minister has instructed Mr Darbara Singh and Mr Bhajan Lal and also senior officials of the two states to gear up their administrative machinery to achieve the desired results.

Before Mrs Gandhi visited Chandigarh for talks, she had expressed her grave concern to the two chief ministers regarding the tardy pace of wheat procurement.

Other wheat-producing states are faring no better. Uttar Pradesh has so far procured 7.24 lakh tonnes against the target of 25-lakh tonnes. Madhya Pradesh has procured 90,000 tonnes against the targeted 2-lakh tonnes. Other states have procured small quantities which would not mean much at all.

CSO: 4220

RAJASTHAN DISTRICT 'REELS' UNDER DROUGHT IMPACT

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 27 May 81 p 20

[Article by P. C. Gandhi: "Drought in Two-Thirds of Udaipur District"]

[Text] Udaipur, May 26: Roughly two-thirds of the population of this sprawling district is reeling under the impact of the worst drought. Of the 3,180 villages in 17 tehsils, 1,739 have been declared scarcity-affected. Many other villages are facing an acute shortage of drinking water with scanty rainfall over the past three years.

Udaipur, known as the "city of lakes" too is facing an acute drinking water shortage. Its three main lakes have been left with little water.

In rural areas of the district, the water level in wells has gone down considerably. Reservoirs and ponds have virtually dried up.

Of the total area of 19,13,330 hectares, about 2.47 lakh hectares of land is cultivable and another 2.42 hectares constitute the forest area.

According to information collected by the revenue department, crops have completely withered away in a little over one lakh hectares.

The number of people hit by the drought is estimated at 11.80 lakhs. With the crops lost, the main problem the people face is employment.

Soon after the declaration of famine conditions in rural areas, the district famine relief committee sanctioned a number of works for execution on an emergency basis. Various departments were asked to start relief operations, the emphasis being on labour intensive projects so that a large number of people could get employment opportunities.

The state government sanctioned 367 works costing about Rs 5.13 crores. Of these 300 works have been taken in hand, providing employment to about 75,000 persons, mostly women.

Simultaneously other works were undertaken by panchayat samitis under the national rural employment scheme. The new name for the "food for work" scheme. During 1980-81 panchayat samitis had a stock of 1,200 tonnes of wheat and rice for distribution as wages for the labour employed on relief work. Another 1,050 tonnes of foodgrains were to be supplied from various godowns of the Food

Corporation of India. Of this about 850 tonnes of rice was lifted before March 31. Thus about 1,300 tonnes of foodgrains were available with panchayat samitis as on May 1.

Wages Payment Slow

The payment of wages in cash to labourers is rather slow. Of the total of Rs 59.60 lakhs available for disbursement as wages among casual labourers, only Rs 9.40 lakhs had been distributed up to the end of April.

Under various relief works as also under the national rural employment scheme, work has been provided to 81,500 persons, though not all of them are getting their wages promptly.

About 600 villages are facing an acute shortage of drinking water. Of these about 300 villages have been provided with hand-pumps. This is inadequate. In the rest of the villages, a crash programme of deepening wells has been launched. The number of new wells constructed can be counted on fingertips.

The collector, Mr J. P. Singh, told this correspondent that efforts were being made to harness available drinking water resources. But the problem was so widespread that unless adequate financial sanction was available well in time for all works, the results could not be encouraging.

Forest Destruction

Administrative sanction for providing about 700 hand-pumps has already been given but work has been taken up on installing only 215 hand-pumps. This delay is attributed to the late availability of funds for execution of relief works. The problem might become more acute in the next four to six weeks.

There has been a steady destruction of the forest wealth over the years. Hillocks throughout the district present a barren look and trees and bushes have almost disappeared. This, according to experts, has reduced rainfall in the district. The average rainfall during the decade ended 1977 was about 700 mm in Kumbhalgarh tehsil. But only 252mm of rainfall was recorded in 1979 and about 400 mm in 1980.

The district administration has now decided to launch a campaign for planting a large number of trees to help maintain the ecological balance in the area.

The low level of water in the Jaisamand lake, the main source of irrigation for the district, has created new problems. Never before had this biggest man-made lake let down the irrigation authorities as badly as this year. The water level in the lake has gone down below the head level of canals.

Irate farmers accuse the authorities of indifference to the problem of desilting [as published] water courses. The authorities on the other hand, blame the weather gods and maintain that nothing could be done to raise the level of the water in the lake till the onset of the monsoon.

INDIGENOUS PRODUCTION OF SMALL AIRCRAFT STUDIED

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 26 May 81 p 7

[Text] The Government is considering production of an indigenous aircraft for the feeder air service, Vayudoot, based on foreign collaboration with the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Civil Aviation Minister A. P. Sharma said on Monday.

Mr Sharma told newsmen that a committee headed by Defence Secretary K. P. A. Menon had been set up to finalise the decision on an aircraft for the feeder service. The committee would submit its report on the subject soon, he disclosed.

The feeder service, currently confined to the North-East, is being run by Fokker Friendship planes taken on loan from the Indian Airlines.

Mr Sharma said the Government could also think of selling its indigenous planes to neighbouring countries if it was in a position to manufacture them in adequate numbers.

The Vayudoot is due to be extended to all regions of the country shortly, he said, with the purpose of promoting domestic tourism. All centres of interest not airlinked so far would be covered, the only essential need being a suitable airstrip for the feeder aircraft. Already several places across the country have been identified for the purpose.

Asked about the 'Makalu' aircraft, he said it was safe and running. But he declined to say anything about the sabotage as it was under investigation.

CSO: 4220

BRIEFS

W. GERMAN SUBMARINE DEAL--New Delhi, May 25 (PTI)--The West Germany-India deal relating to the sale of submarines and the technological know-how is reported to have been finalised to the satisfaction of the parties concerned. According to informed sources the deal, which had run into a "little rough weather" on account of certain reservations on the part of the West German government, has been resolved successfully by a high-powered defence ministry team which recently visited West Germany. The sources further added that interested international lobbies were trying to create confusion about the deal. The memoranda of understanding relating to the sale of the two submarines and subsequent production of two more in the country has been agreed upon. The sources said the West German government would ensure the supplies of spare parts from the manufacturers, M/s Howaldt-Du-Deutsche Works, and other equipment during emergencies. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 26 May 81 p 13]

EXTREMIST LEADER ARRESTED--Imphal, May 25--Mr Ibohanbi Singh, top leader of the outlawed "Kangleipak Communist Party" (KCP), along with his "few supporters" was arrested today from Sekta, near Keibi area, about 27 km from here, during a combining operation launched by CRPF and Manipur police personnel, according to CRPF sources here. The combining operation was launched following a heavy exchange of fire between security personnel and armed extremists this morning. One gun, some blankets and a tape recorder were also recovered from the arrested persons. The KCP leader was also reported to have been involved in an incident early this year in which three CRPF jawans were shot dead by armed extremists at Natum Hill. Panchayat Chief shot dead: Mr Brajagopal Singh, pradhan of the Pukhao gram panchayat about 25 km from here, was shot dead by some gunmen last night.--PTI & UNI [Text] [Madras THE HINDU in English 26 May 81 p 9]

ANDHRA PRADESH CPI LEADER--Hyderabad, May 26--Andhra Pradesh CPI Council member and State AITUC Secretary M. V. N. Kaparde died here yesterday afternoon of heavy internal bleeding. He was 58. Mr Kaparde is survived his wife Seshamma, and six sons and two daughters. [as published] He was admitted in Osmania hospital three days back and was shifted to Nizam hospital yesterday after heavy internal bleeding. Doctors struggled till the last minute to save him through blood transfusion. Mr Kaparde was associated with various trade unions in the fields of road transport, jute, tobacco, textile and was a devoted organiser of working class movement in the State. State CPI secretariat condoled his untimely death. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 27 May 81 p 4]

K. D. MALAVIYA DIES--New Delhi, May 27--Mr K. D. Malaviya, former Union Minister, died here today in the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences after a protracted illness, reports UNI. He was 78, and is survived by his wife, daughter and son. Mr Malaviya was hospitalized for the treatment of a serious liver ailment. He was in a critical condition for several days. A large number of people visited the institute on the news of Mr Malaviya's death. Among them were Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Health Minister, Mr B. Shankaranand, and the Civil Aviation Minister, Mr A. P. Sharma. Mrs Gandhi described Mr Malaviya as a courageous freedom fighter. He had been specially close to her father and her husband. She said he had spent his life in the service of the nation and was a man of vision. The Union Petroleum and Chemicals Minister, Mr P. C. Sethi, said Mr Malaviya was the "architect of the petroleum industry in the country." It was under his guidance the oil exploration and the refining of petroleum progressed. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 May 81 p 1]

FORWARD BLOC; BJP RELATIONS--Mr Asok Ghosh, Forward Bloc leader, said on Wednesday that his party was opposed to any move to have the Bharatiya Janata Party as an ally in the fight against Mrs Gandhi's authoritarianism. He was referring to the CPI(M)'s overtures to the BJP for a joint campaign against Mrs Gandhi. The BJP, he said, was a Rightist, communal, pro-American party which was worse than the Congress(I). If a Leftist party joined hands with the BJP to fight authoritarianism, it would be swamped by that party which followed the dictates of the RSS. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 May 81 p 10]

ORISSA LANGUAGE WEEKLY--Bhubaneswar, May 27--The LOKSHAKTI, a mouthpiece of the Orissa Pradesh Congress(I) Committee, came into publication yesterday, reports PTI. Mr Chintamani Jena, president of the OPCC(I), who formally released the language weekly at a press conference, said the paper would focus the news and views of the party. Mr Jadunath Das Mohapatra, former Minister of Orissa, is editor of the weekly. Mr Gangadhara Mohapatra, Minister for Education, Mr Basudev Mohapatra, Agricultural Minister and Mr Harihar Karan, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare were present at the conference. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 May 81 p 12]

NAXALITE GROUPS COOPERATE--Mr Kanu Sanyal, secretary, Organizing Committee of Communist Revolutionaries, said in a statement that his party and the Communist Party (Bolsheviks) would work together although for the time being they would retain their separate entities. In a 12-point joint communique, signed by Mr Sanyal and Mr Jose Abraham, the leaders of these two Naxalite groups claimed that Telengana and Naxalbari had shown the right direction for the Indian revolution. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 28 May 81 p 16]

BOMBAY AIR STATION--Bombay, May 28 (UNI)--An air force station is likely to be set up in Bombay. Air Marshal I. S. Chhabra, air officer, commanding-in-chief, maintenance command, who is on a four-day visit to the city since Tuesday, attended an air force conference to discuss this yesterday. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 29 May 81 p 5]

CONGRESS-I ELECTIONS--New Delhi, May 28 (UNI)--Organisational elections of the Congress(I) will take place some time in October, the AICC(I) general-secretary, Mr Vasant Rao Patil, said here today. Mr Patil told newsmen that the process of the organisational elections would start after the rainy season. Answering question, he said nearly 14 million members had been enrolled. The last date of enrolment was March 15. The elections were earlier scheduled to be completed by June-end. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 2nd May 81 p 9]

CSO: 4220

ALKATIRI: FRETILIN HOLDS THE INITIATIVE ON BATTLEFIELD

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 24 May 81 pp 1, 2

[Report of press conference with Mari Alkatiri, foreign affairs minister of East Timor, on 23 May 1981 in Maputo]

[Text] Meeting with the nation's news media yesterday, Mari Alkatiri, foreign affairs minister of East Timor, declared that, despite Indonesia's attempts to annihilate the Maubere resistance, FRETILIN continues to hold the initiative in the guerrilla war, while it takes action at domestic and international levels to counteract the enemy maneuvers at those levels.

The press conference, which was attended by Information Minister Jose Luis Cabaco and members of the Executive Secretariat of the ONJ [National Organization of Journalists], served as a briefing session on the current status of the struggle in East Timor and dealt with the latest events inside and outside the country, illegally occupied by Indonesia.

Regarding East Timor's relations with Portugal, which the United Nations still considers the administrative power, Minister Alkatiri said that relations are currently good and praised the Portuguese Government's initiative in inviting UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim to discuss the East Timor situation during his recent visit to Lisbon. According to the most recent reports, Portugal also urged creation of a UN committee to take up the question.

Further regarding the Portuguese Government, the minister said the current administration "is the first government that has managed to get up enough courage to assume its historical responsibilities." He said FRETILIN is convinced of the government's good will, but added that Portugal should be more clear about what path to take.

The lack of vision regarding the right path is due to a certain unwillingness by Portugal to recognize FRETILIN as the sole legitimate representative of the Maubere people, he added. Regarding the Portuguese initiative, he said: "We are prepared to find points of agreement and to act on the basis of this agreement," but on condition that FRETILIN is recognized as the sole legitimate representative of East Timor. The question must be taken up within the United Nations and absolutely not with Indonesia, Alkatiri stressed, adding that Indonesia's only role is to withdraw from the territory it occupies.

At the same time, the minister announced that, at FRETILIN's request, the International People's Court will meet from 19 to 21 June in Lisbon to judge Indonesia's crimes. Considering the acceptance of this demand as a victory for FRETILIN, Alkatiri noted that the resolutions to come out of the court are important in that they may be influential in clarifying the legal status of East Timor and in bringing about stronger condemnation of Indonesia's aggression.

Progress of Guerrilla War

Minister Alkatiri said the guerrilla war had been going favorably since the occupation and that the Indonesian army is now preparing for a major offensive. The guerrilla force is more mobile than it was 2 years ago, and is thus harder to contain. It is able to act in the central zone, which the enemy had thought it had under firmer control.

Noting that, for the first time, the Indonesians are using F-5 planes in their operations, there are objective and subjective conditions for the growth of the guerrilla force, because there is general discontent and real support for the liberation struggle. This is why Indonesia is seeking to exercise as much control as possible over the Maubere people, specifically with repressive measures and measures of an economic nature. As an example of the latter, Alkatiri cited the salary increases for public officials, in an effort to form an elite bourgeoisie partial to Indonesia.

Indonesia has access to supplies, which the guerrillas lack because they must rely on their own forces, but the two sides have differing strategies, and this works in favor of FRETILIN.

Because of international disapproval, Indonesia sees East Timor as its major problem and thus seeks to end the war as quickly as possible, whereas FRETILIN's defined goal is to continue the struggle until the final victory. It is also noted that Radio Maubere, an important tool in countering enemy propaganda, is now broadcasting every day, which was not the case 2 years ago.

The East Timor foreign affairs minister said the diplomatic victories were important, but he pointed out the problem that Indonesia is a member of the Islamic Conference and of OPEC, and thus has the support of the Arab countries, and is also a member of the nonaligned nations, among which it is working to isolate FRETILIN, demanding that they oppose the movement or at least remain neutral on the Maubere question.

The press conference with Minister Alkatiri was followed by a fellowship gathering, during which a Maubere folk group and a Mozambican "combo" performed, celebrating the seventh anniversary of the founding of FRETILIN, on 20 May.

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CSO: 4728/6

KHAN: GOAL OF GOVERNMENT'S LABOR POLICY IS STABILITY, INCREASED PRODUCTION

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 27 Apr 81 pp 22, 24

[Interview with Ghulam Dastagir Khan, federal minister of labor and manpower, by Abdul Salam Malik; place and date unspecified]

[Text] Ghulam Dastagir Khan became a celebrity when he chose the opposition path in the field of politics for himself and he has continued on that same path since 1970. People know that opposition is a difficult choice and opposition to the existing government is the most difficult task and likewise poses terrible punishment. As Agha Shorash Kashmiri says: "It is not easy to imperil your future for the sake of safeguarding the future of your country. The price has to be paid and for those who agree to pay that price, nature remembers them with respect." And certainly Mr Khan has paid the price. In that hard and difficult time, he bravely resisted and survived every temptation, threat and punishment, whereas big political figureheads and politicians, despite hearing the disgrace of "Muafi Khan" and the ruins of "Hohenjodaro" in public, thought it better to bow to that politically powerful but disgraceful leader. And they did not even care about disgracing their old age in their desire to obtain jobs and show their obedience.

Today Dastagir Khan is a minister, but in the past he was a helpless and captive person. Today he is in power and safe, but in the past he was a victim of oppression. Mr Khan has been given a few other ministries, too. The question concerning labor is by its very nature a very sensitive and delicate one, and everyone knows that Mr Khan plans to come out with a solution that is fully acceptable to both sides. Therefore, the CHATAN editor decided to meet with Mr Khan on this matter and ask for answers to possible questions being raised in different minds so that the curiosity and anxiety of millions of people about this matter could be satisfied. I was assigned this task. Because of my disposition and mental training, I am quite contemplative and reflective when meeting people in power. The main obstacle in this connection is that of answering the meaningless interrogations of the self-created gatekeepers who are always present without any reason at the doors of such people. Sometimes because of these gentlemen, I would prefer to postpone the desired meeting. In the case of Mr Khan, however, I was not rejected because I had accompanying me Mr G.A. Javed, a well-known and popular photographer who can easily pass through such barriers. Because of his excellent personality and his smiling face, he can easily find his way through even the most uncouth gatherings. At Cojranwala, we learned that Mr Khan would stop at home for a while on his way to Sialkot. So Mr Javed and I reached his home at

the right time. There were a lot of people, as usual, at the house but with Javed in the lead, we easily reached Mr Khan. He was very busy and told us that it would be better to meet him in Islamabad on 13 April, in the afternoon. On 13 April we reached Islamabad at 1:00 pm and telephoned Mr Khan from the office of a friend in the secretariat. I told his secretary about us and our purpose. He said that they were preparing for us and that we should call back after 10 minutes which we did and it was Mr Khan himself talking to us and he told Javed to "come down here, since I am waiting for you." His man was waiting to guide us through the reception room of B block. He took us to the office, which consisted of three rooms, each filled with people. After a while we were served tea during our wait and we saw many people meeting Mr Khan and leaving. At 3:00 pm, when the office hours had ended, Mr Khan took us to his residence, a big house in which he was living alone because his family was still in Gojranwala. After a while we had our supper. I was in a hurry to get to the work for which I had come, so right after returning to the drawing room, with the permission of Mr Khan, I asked my questions.

[Question] How far has the process of putting together recommendations to constitute the guidelines for the new labor policy been achieved? And when will the long-awaited labor policy be announced?

[Answer] Before answering your question, I think it necessary to talk about the current labor policy. You know that this policy is the product of the so-called peoples' government, which would always praise labor support, and it is a fact that the simple and patriotic laborers gave those leaders maximum support, making it possible for them to establish their strong and aggressive grip on the government. And from this point of view, this class deserved maximum praise. Can you find any such trace? Were these leaders not so ungrateful that instead of providing a peaceful and honorable source of income to millions of these hardworking and modest people, they made them victims of constant anguish, affliction and struggle? And with their dirty, filthy minds, under the name of reforms, they, [the leaders] established and implemented a policy that is a clear reflection of their hypocrisy and that destroyed the national industrial peace. All this was done in pursuit of their political aims and to gain the support of the establishment for their government. The present government believes that the country's working class is the backbone of the country's economy. And if it is unsatisfied, unhappy or poor, then there is no way that the country can progress. Therefore, keeping this purpose or motive in mind, a three-man labor conference came into being and after reviewing this sensitive issue at a few conferences, constituted a working committee consisting of 13 people in which every party was given equal right of representation and which was made responsible for gathering recommendations to formulate guidelines for the new labor policy. I am myself, as a newcomer, examining the details of the last proceedings and am also personally examining all the details of this matter, and I assure you that the present government's performance is quite satisfactory. I hope that the said working group will be able to compile the final recommendations by the middle of May, in the light of which the framework of the new policy will come into focus.

[Question] At present Pakistan needs a balanced labor policy that can guarantee more production and a durable industrial peace. What is the government's policy and point of view in this connection?

[Answer] Of course! There is not only a need but an urgent need. The attainment of more production is only possible when the payer and the payee both are guaranteed safety and there should be no distrust among them, so that they can fully participate with all the peace of mind and heart in the national production. As far as 'industrial peace is concerned, for that too it is necessary that both sides should respect the rights and recognize the self-respect of the other and accept their responsibilities. In my opinion, there are no better guidelines than those described by Islam. It is my belief that with the spirit of Islam in justice, implementation of the Islamic system of economics can eliminate the differences between master and servant, the laborer and the master, the worker and the industrialist and capitalist, all of which differences could become the basis of some industrial disorder. And it is a fact that the principles in the light of established Islamic teachings will be our guiding principles, constituting the guidelines of our labor policy. When the country's ideology is Islamic and we are all Muslims, then why shouldn't we seek Islamic guidelines and guidance in every walk of life instead of stretching our hands towards different "isms"? Foreign research in the developed nations could be used to advance our national industry and the government wants to put into practice, within our limited resources, the recommendations of the ILO. But it is important not to allow some other "isms" to interfere. President General Zia himself has always expressed this determination in his speeches.

[Question] Financial investment and the settlement of the new industries have almost stopped. What are the government's plans for improving this situation?

[Answer] In my opinion, one of the main reasons for this deadlock is the unstable labor policy. But more than that are the destructive signs compiled by the experiment called nationalization, the purpose of which was to create facilities for a few selected people and to rob certain opposing industrialists of their whole life's belongings. Whatever the result was, the entire nation saw that some industries that were making a good profit were crushed under administrative expenses. Then they were forced to overdraft from the banks and the situation worsened. Banks were also going bankrupt by giving unreturnable loans. Now you can imagine who would want investment in this type of situation and who would be interested in putting new industries into operation. Every investor wants the safety of his investment and so every industrialist wants the safety of his industry. Now that we want to have a labor policy based on Islamic principles, in which the safety of the rights of both parties is graphically explained, in which it would at least be possible for one side to refuse the rights of the other side and in which the high principles of Islamic brotherhood would be upheld, then there is no reason for the present deadlock to remain. The government has already taken some positive steps in the case of private investment that have provided grounds for a good beginning. I would like to clearly repeat the president's assurance that the government has no intention of nationalizing any industry in the future and I believe that the worries and suspicion about nationalization should not be in the minds of the capitalists. And arrangements should also be made to insure that in the future no government merely for political reasons, through some labor union, its power or through some industrialist, could destroy the industrial peace. Our government can perform the role of a third party in an inevitable conflict but will never try to become a partner on one side.

[Question] Isn't it better for the country and the nation that only laborers should have permission to join the labor unions and, because of this, the labor unions should not be used for political purposes?

[Answer] In the light of recommendations of the ILO, according to the laws of the time, laborers have full freedom to organize a union and they have the power to allow 25 percent nonlaborers in their working committees. The actual reason for this concession is that the laborers have the facility to acquire assistance in certain technical and legal matters from expert people. But if this concession is used for political purposes, then we'll certainly prevent it.

[Question] Is it not a fact that considering the speed with which the country's population is growing, appropriate attention is not being given to providing opportunities for jobs?

[Answer] I have answered your question to a certain extent already and that is, if the government, according to its desires, provides guaranteed protection to private investments and a balanced labor policy based on Islamic principles, then, in my opinion, these steps would reduce unemployment in the country to a greater extent. Then every measure could be made to further activate the present job-providing organizations and that would also help to eliminate unemployment.

[Question] Under the industrial relations ordinance, inclusion of the labor representatives has been emphasized, but in reality it did not happen. Will your government take some positive step in this matter?

[Answer] The said law, in which the working class is privileged to have rights and concessions, depends on the government to make its attainment practical and the government is responsible for this. In this regard, I am trying to uncover organizations that are not adhering to this law so that the working class is not neglected anywhere.

[Question] Is the performance of the commission being affected by the shortage of members on the state commission for industrial relations and are the decisions on disputes being stalled? Would you hope to remedy this?

[Answer] I know this situation. Therefore, the first thing that I have done is to issue instructions to the chairman that he should stay in Islamabad most of the time so that his absence does not cause any delay; nevertheless, in this situation the chances are that the commission's performance itself should improve. I've asked for a report on the number of members of the commission. After looking at the list, if it proves true that the fault lies with the number of members, then that will be immediately remedied. I am even ready, for the purpose of quick decisions on industrial disputes, to increase industrial costs as necessary; that cannot be avoided because delays in settling industrial disputes eventually have a bad affect on the potential of national production and no government could allow such disputes to be prolonged.

[Question] The working class wants the three-member conference be made a permanent office. Does the government intend to do so?

[Answer] The working class is represented on the basis of equal representation and the new labor policy is being devised in the light of the recommendations made by the same conference. So I don't see any logic in their demand. To me, the burden of the extensive expenditures of a permanent office consisting of so many members would be totally improper. Yes, it would certainly happen that the three-member labor conference would be called at times so that settlements of industrial disputes are made, and with its concrete proposals regarding industrial relations, the government will also get information on the current situation.

[Question] Is your government thinking of changing the definition of the working-man in current laws so that more workers could have the opportunity for trade union membership?

[Answer] This matter has come under discussion in the three-man labor conference. The government will definitely consider its recommendations with sympathy, although in principal, the government wants the maximum number of workers to have the right to participate in trade union activities. Attention has been directed to many other vague and unclear clauses in the current law that could be removed.

[Question] A great number of skilled laborers are leaving for abroad. Will their absence not affect our production capabilities?

[Answer] Why not? Rather, in my opinion, it is already affecting us. The government does feel the shortage and it is working on a positive planning scheme to stop the drain of skilled labor. The present census is part of our struggle, so that in light of the current figures this duty could be performed although the only first step to stop this trend is to build industries and to encourage private investment so that better-rewarded jobs can be provided, so that no one would need to go abroad to sell his skills. Believe me, the president himself is taking personal interest in this matter and every step is being taken to attain the necessary goals. In my opinion, a balanced labor policy could play an important role in this regard.

[Question] The system of investigations of accidents in factories is generally useless, with the result that the accidents are increasing daily. What steps is the government taking to improve this situation?

[Answer] This is a very sad situation. The government has become determined to insure that precautions are strictly enforced, regardless. Investigations are underway to determine in which organizations precautions against accidents are violated. Strict action will be taken against such organizations. It is not only that the government acknowledges the greatness of the laborer and is responsible for his safety, from the standpoint of humanity and ethics this matter is the focus of primary attention. That somebody lose his life because certain protections provided by the law have been denied--what could be worse than that? You will shortly learn about the government struggles and results.

[Question] What is your planning in connection with the education and training to be provided for skilled manpower in the factories?

[Answer] At present, most of the work is done at the polytechnical level, whence B-class engineers graduate, but these institutions are either beyond the reach of the common people or are insufficient in number. So we are trying to start training manpower, on a lower level, for the demands of different industries. For example, the training centers for carpet making that we established have been a great success. Therefore, the government wants to arrange training centers throughout the country to provide industrial training on the same level, and for this purpose, comprehensive planning has already begun.

[Question] Is there any such restriction under consideration that only those labor unions will be allowed to function that believe in Islam and the ideology of Pakistan?

[Answer] There is no denying the fact that Pakistan is an ideological country and its fundamental ideology is Islam. Thousands of people sacrificed their lives for this ideology to make Pakistan. Now its life and stability depend on the people's sincere and faithful adherence to the ideology. The president of the country has determined that the system implemented in this country will be arranged in the light of the teachings of the basic ideology and he is working on it day and night. We who accompany him and share his powers on the ministerial and advisory levels are with him in the accomplishment of his determination. Now you tell me, is it allowed in any ideological country in the world that one person or group of people can refuse its basic ideology? If it is not possible, which it is not, then why do our people expect such concessions? I don't want to go into details, let me say only briefly that we cannot allow any foreign agents or parties to break through the wall of our ideology because to us "belief is the only injection with which the backbone of afflicted humanity can be supported." Islam is our religion; it is our politics and way of life.

In the case of the trade unions, we are conducting an impartial investigation to know who's who, what their ideological affiliation is, to whom their ideological and political support goes—in other words, we might do something after learning all the facts involved so that no one could say that actions taken against them are unjustified or that they were unjustly dealt with. I think that our working class is practically much more Islamic than we are and they will themselves rebuke the black sheep (if any).

At the end of the interview, I sought to leave. Mr Khan had to go someplace, too. So he escorted us to the door to say goodbye and we set off for Gojranwala.

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GANINI ACCUSED OF UNDERMINING ABDULLAH GOVERNMENT

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 27 Apr 81 pp 20, 21

[Article by Kalim Akhtar, staff reporter]

[Text] According to the news from occupied Kashmir, the Indian Government has decided to get rid of the Shaykh Abdullah government and set up a presidential government. Relations between Mrs Indira Gandhi and Shaykh Abdullah have become tense. During her recent visit to occupied Kashmir, she strongly criticized the Abdullah government and said, "Whenever we want, we can dismiss the Abdullah government within a minute." In response to that, Shaykh Abdullah said that the Indian prime minister, who considers herself a champion of democracy, has no justification for doing away with an elected government.

Recently, Mrs Indira Gandhi made a short visit to occupied Kashmir which overall proved totally unpleasant. She was welcomed with black flags wherever she went and a few meetings turned into political fights. In Jammu, workers of the Indira Congress and opposition parties collided and more than 150 people were injured, but the police did not intervene.

These clashes during Mrs Gandhi's recent meeting in the state took place when, criticizing the Abdullah government, she said that it had failed; then the people raised signs and shouted slogans in favor of Shaykh Abdullah and said that they did not want the atomic bomb, only food. Mrs Gandhi blamed Shaykh Abdullah for hiring people to disturb the meetings. Demonstrations against Mrs Gandhi were not limited to Jammu; opposition in Kathua, Odhampur and Dodah also upset Mrs Gandhi's meetings. It is worth noting that all this area has a Hindu majority. One factor is that the assembly member for this area belongs to the National Conference and at present is a minister in the Abdullah government; his name is Thakir Das.

To overcome this disgrace and humiliation, Mrs Gandhi adopted another role and said that the Abdullah government failed to overcome racism and that minorities consider themselves insecure in the state and are in danger due to the present situation. She also blamed Shaykh Abdullah, saying that his government "does not permit the 'India Congress' to perform its role as an opposition party...", and also declared that the non-Congress governments cannot function without the help of the central government.

Shaykh Abdullah's Explanation

Shaykh Muhammad Abdullah, chief minister of occupied Kashmir, refuting Mrs Gandhi's allegations, said that it was totally incorrect that the minorities were unsafe in the state and that their places of worship were forcefully seized. He said that in 1947, when the whole subcontinent was engulfed in racial discrimination, we safeguarded the minorities and we remain determined to safeguard them in the future. The present situation is such that there is no opposition among the state's Pash-tini people on this matter. At present, minorities that belong to Buddhism and Hinduism are totally safe. Buddhists are in the majority in Laddakh. In Jammu Province, Hindus are in the majority and this happened because in 1947, many of the Muslim majority regions of Jammu Province became included in Azad Kashmir and hundreds of thousands of Jammu Muslims were killed in violence against Muslims. Then thousands of Muslims were forced to migrate to Pakistan and Azad Kashmir. Therefore, Jammu Province's Muslim majority became a minority. And at this time, if any minority in the province is unsafe, it is the Muslims of Jammu, who are like a drop in the bucket, and if someone is perplexed and grieved over this matter, that could be a Muslim but not Mrs Indira Gandhi.

The question arises as to what Mrs Gandhi means by minorities.

Actually, in the 1947 violations, hundreds of thousands of Hindus went to Jammu from the Sialkot, Gojranwala, Gujrat and Jehlam regions of West Pakistan. At that time of panic and uproar, those Hindus kindled the disturbances. They killed Muslims, stole their goods, drove out the rest of the Muslims and seized their property. But what happened was that the provincial government, according to state law, did not give any of them state citizenship rights and, according to the old Dogra government law, too, no one from outside the state could be a citizen. Also, according to clause 370 of the Indian constitution, when a separate entity of the state was formed, there was to be no bargaining. Therefore, the State Custodian Department looks after the properties of the refugees. Here it is worth mentioning that recently a Muslim refugee who, at the time of the partition, was in London and had acquired British citizenship, went to Jammu and tried to acquire the family property. But there was proof that he was a state citizen and he was not only given the property but the Custodian Department gave him the amount of rent for all that time.

The Indian Government wants refugees from former West Pakistan to be allowed permanent residency in the state, but Shaykh Abdullah has refused. He says that his government is neither capable of settling the Hindu refugees of West Pakistan nor does it have the resources, and he will not accept any instructions issued by the Indian Government. Shaykh Abdullah says that he will not allow the settlement of out-of-state people in any part of Jammu and Kashmir. This is a very important and sensitive matter, and it will not be made a racial matter.

It is worth noting that all the political parties of the state, with the exception of the Indira Congress, are with the Abdullah government on this matter. In a recent meeting of the People's Conference, the demand for the settlement of non-Muslim refugees from West Pakistan was severely opposed. Mirza M. Afzal Baig, president of the Revolutionary People's Conference, though considered to be among Shaykh Abdullah's opponents, has opposed the Indian stand.

Actually, Mrs Gandhi wants to end Abdullah's government in every respect. Now other trouble is being fanned, since India wants to have a presidential government in occupied Kashmir. This means that the Abdullah government would be forced to work according to the instructions of the central government and India would have an opportunity to interfere in Azad Kashmir. This is why the Indian politicians started saying openly that Azad Kashmir is part of the state and should become part of occupied Kashmir, so that India's expansionism is enlarged. For the attainment of this purpose, India has raised the question of settling Hindus in the state so that violence is kindled and India gets the opportunity to carry out its willful designs.

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BANNED JAMIA ULAMAE ISLAM SPLITS OVER SELECTION OF NEW OFFICIAL

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 27 Apr 81 pp 38, 39

[Article by Ahsan Ahmad Sahar, Bahawalpur correspondent: "Banned Jamiat Ulamae Islam, Split Into Two Factions"]

[Text] Public, religious, business and cultural circles have severely criticised the merging of Bahawalpur Road into other non-Muslim roads by the municipal corporation of Lahore. Besides, the chairman of the district council of Bahawalpur, Sardar Afzal Ahmad Khan Langah; the chairman of Bahawalpur municipality, Saith Abdul Rehman; the chairman of the municipality, Ahmedpur Sharqia Hafiz Khurehid Ahmed Shaykh; the chairman of Awich town committee, Sharif Makhdum Ghulam Asghar Bukhari; the president of the High Court Bar Association, Advocate Rauf Ghor; the president of the Ahmedpur Sharqia Bar Association, Advocate Abdul Karim Chugutai; and councilors and representatives from all walks of life have expressed their views on the proposal for changing Bahawalpur Road and have said that the present name is attributed to the late Nawab Bahawalpur Khan Abbasi, father of the former state of Bahawalpur. Also from the same name is Bahawalpur House, where bungalows of the Punjab Government officials are now located.

Expressing their views, they said they were surprised at how the Bahawalpur Road had been given a non-Muslim name, whereas its old name belonged to the former state of Bahawalpur. And not only considering that the leaders of this state actively participated in the struggle for Pakistan, but the former ruler of Bahawalpur, Nawab General Sadiq Mohammad Khan Khamasi Abbasi, was a personal friend of the founder of Pakistan, Mohammad Ali Jinnah. Mr Jinnah often stayed at the late chief-tan Bawal Khan's residence, "Bawalpur House Mir," in Karachi. Declaring the decision of the management of the municipal corporation of Lahore an insult to the people of Bahawalpur, they said that the proposal should be rescinded immediately so that the prevailing confusion among the people of Bahawalpur could be lessened. These people have also asked the Lahore corporation to request an apology for this negligence.

In Punjab Province, as in other districts, the bar association elections of Bahawalpur also reached their end. In the High Court Bar Association Bahawalpur election, the presidential candidate, Mr Rauf Ghor, won with an overwhelming majority and Advocate Molak Siddiq Sikandar was elected president and Advocate Yousof Sami general secretary of the Bahawalpur District Bar Association. Abdul Karim Chugutai and Syed Alamdar Hussain Shah were elected president and general secretary of the Ahmedpur Sharqia Bar Association.

The country's prominent banned political party, Jamiat Ulamae Islam, in the matter of electing a successor to Maulana Mufti Mahmood, has split into two factions. Last week an important meeting of the leaders of the banned Jamiat Ulamae Islam took place in Madrisa Makhzanul Aloom of Khaupur in which, besides 40 members of the Majlis-e-Shoora, hundreds of other leaders and workers participated. The leader of the Jamiat, Maulana Abdullah Darkhuasti, presented the name of Maulana Abaidullah Anwar as successor to the late Maulana Mufti Mahmood. At the meeting there was a heated discussion of Maulana Fazalur Rehman's participation in the MRD and much debate took place. Maulana Abdullah Darkhuasti and his friends' stand was that no alliance could be made with any leftist political party whereas Maulana Fazalur Rehman and his friends' stand was that as the Jamiat had made an alliance with the National Awami Party in the past, there was nothing wrong now with making an alliance with the banned People's Party. In this situation, this special meeting of the Jamiat was postponed, with the selection of a successor to the late Mufti Mahmood unresolved. Later, talking to newsmen, the leader of the Jamiat Maulana Abdullah Darkhuasti said that he had decided to break up the provincial, federal and regional managements of the Nezamul Ulana throughout the country. The following day, he left for Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah.

A meeting was organized in Ahmadpur Sharqia by Pakistan Ilm Student Federation to pay tribute to the martyrs of Nizame Mustafa; the guest of honor was the chairman of the district council of Bahawalpur, Sardar Fazal Ahmad Khan Langah. The meeting was presided over by the young leader of the Majlis Ahrare Islam, Advocate Sayed Arshad Bukhari, and the student leader Sarar Laghari; Advocate Malak Ramzan Anjum; Mujtaba Bukhari, president of PMSF and Advocate Sayed Arshad Bukhari expressed their tributes to the martyrs. These speakers, expressing their thoughts on the background of the Nizame Mustafa movement said that efforts would be continued until the aims of the movement are achieved. They appealed to the public at this crucial stage in the country's history to check the enemies of Pakistan and the ideology of Islam; they should help the government unmask these enemies. They said that the nation would never forgive those leaders who misled the nation under false pretenses. The speakers appealed for unity between the patriots of the country and the lovers of Islam, for a unified struggle to eradicate anti-Islam and communist elements. The chief guest, Mr Langah, said that the Nizame Mustafa movement was started, purely out of Islamic love, against dictatorship when so-called public government had ended. The nation had attained success with the sacrifice of the movement's martyrs so that Islamic order could be established in all walks of life. He appealed to the participants and the public to eradicate the enemies of Islam and Pakistan by starting a movement, like the Nizame Mustafa movement, to safeguard Islam and Pakistan so that elements that create obstacles in the establishment of an Islamic system will be crushed.

Ahmadpur Sharqia police gave their best performance last year because of the young Assistant Superintendent of Police, Mr Khalid Farooq, who has been promoted to the rank of superintendent of police. The circle police seized stolen goods and animals worth 2,224,490 rupees. There were a total of 374 cases of theft during the entire year; in 368 of these the stolen goods recovered.

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PROGRESSIVE SCHOLARS QUESTION INDEPENDENCE, WORK FOR SOVIET INTERESTS

Lahore CHATAN in Urdu 27 Apr 81 pp 31, 32

[Article by Ibne Qadir Mustafa: "The Progressive Scholars Who Are the Enemies of Pakistan"]

[Text] In a way, the progressive scholars have created disturbances in every Muslim country, but Pakistan has been a special target because of the Jews' and Hindus' animation against Pakistan whose tools are the Pakistani progressive leaders. First of all, in united India in 1925, a communist party was organized through the struggles of an anti-Muslim Hindu MNA (it was the same MNA which, at the suggestion of Lenin, had established a school for the teaching of communism; later these schools became vehicles for the slavery of Muslims). But it was in 1935 that the communists prepared a scheme against the Muslims of the Indian sub-continent. This scheme was prepared in the Nagging Restaurant in London. In this scheme, Sardar Jaafry, Sajjad Zaheer, Dr Jewee, Dr Raj Anandah, S.M. Gupta and so forth were included; later Faiz Ahmad Faiz, Mahmood Ali Qasoori and Mian Iftikharud Din also became members.

In London, Sajjad Zaheer had already established contacts with Mian Iftikharud Din, Mahmood Ali Qasoori, Karan Singh and Baidi Piare Lal. When Sajjad returned, he met Mian Bashir Ahmad and Faiz Ahmad Faiz in Punjab in 1936. Since Mian Bashir Ahmad was from the Muslim League, Sajjad Zaheer, commenting on him, said: "He does not have a progressive mind and he has championed the politics of the Muslim League, which are hollow."

The so-called progressive Muslims are actually the agents of the Hindu capitalists and the Congress, which, through them, is working for Russian interests. The scheme that was prepared in 1935 in London and that was planned by the Russians concerned the coming nation of Pakistan. These progressive people accepted Jawahar Lal Nehru as their leader and they were looking forward to him. Thus, Sajjad Zaheer writes: "We thought that the people and the writers who would come to our conference, the Congress meeting (held in Lakhnau), would be attractive for them, and there would be leftists, communists, and socialists who would profit. They were all looking forward to Nehru." (ROSHNAEE, pp 94, 95) These elements call Pakistan an imperialist wickedness and see it as a sectarian activity. These are the same words that the anti-Pakistan elements use.

The separation in August 1947 ended the meetings in Punjab and the sectarian ghost put off the cultural and literal connections between Punjab and Delhi. (ROSHNAEE, p 358) Because these people have been against Pakistan from the beginning, and are still anti-Pakistani, their ultimate desire is to crush the existence of this state by some means and merge it with India. "It is just possible that our young writers aside, the old ones should comprehend it or else our doings should force them to become reunited and to struggle for the freedom and self-determination of their country." (PODAY, p 5) They think the existence of Pakistan is a joke and think the departure of the British is an illusion. Thus, Ahmad Nadeem Qasmi writes: "After August 1947, a rumor was created in India and Pakistan that the British had left." (SHAHRAH DELHI No 2, 3, p 360)

These progressive people call Muhammad Ali Jinnah and other Muslim League leaders tools of the British imperialists and call themselves the force and soldiers as opposed to the Muslim League. "I laughed several times over the Congress and Muslim League leaders and over the failures of the informers of the British imperialists. They divided India into pieces but could not harm the progressive movement. The writers of India and Pakistan who call themselves progressives, they are not the writers of two countries, they are the soldiers of one army fighting on two different fronts." (SHAHRAH DELHI, p 362) Then these people call the separation of India and Pakistan an unholy conspiracy, as if to say that the demand for a greater state was a filthy and nasty confederacy and a civil war. "We call the country's civil war (separation) a filthy confederacy of the British imperialists and the Indian capitalists." (Sajjad Zaheer in PODAY, Nov 1946)

When Pakistan came into existence, these progressive people considered that the word freedom was humiliated, since it was being used for the freedom of Pakistan, and they wanted to crush this freedom as soon as possible. Thus, it is written in the ADABE LATIF: "Considering that today's freedom as freedom is synonymous to the humiliation of the word freedom, it is also a fact that this freedom has limited time. That day is not far off when our people will gain freedom from all oppression and live in a totally free society." (ADABE LATIF ANNUAL, 1948)

"Pakistan and India got independence at a time of civil war and political suicide. And at this time, in 1940, it is difficult to estimate the duration of the effects of this unhistorical and deadly divisioning of the country." (INDIAN MUSLIM POLITICS by Dr Ashraf, pp 57, 58)

Pakistan will be safer if it is stronger in its defense and powerful to the agents of the foreign powers. Therefore, the enemies of Pakistan want to see it weak in its defense by all means and they call expenditures to strengthen these defenses disruptive expenses. So the anti-Pakistanis say: "Most of the country's economy is spent on disruptive activities, for example, war preparations." (SAWERA, No 7, 8, p 22)

First of all, these imperialistic progressive people created the issue of regional languages, and they were punished in the form of the separation of East Pakistan. Russia had also created these language issues, first of all in the occupied Muslim territories; for example: "Neither is Hindi the language of all India nor is Urdu the language of all Pakistan. Every language should have full freedom to flourish

in its own territory and its speakers should have the right to speak it so that they perform all their cultural, social and political activities in their own languages." (PROGRESSIVE LITERATURE, pp 204, 205) Besides, the well-known anti-Pakistan communist leader Sajjad Zaheer, initially in 1928 at the suggestion of Russia, planted the seeds of regional prejudice in East Pakistan and created the question of Urdu and Bengali.

Fais Ahmad Fais, the most famous Russian agent in Pakistan, who received the Lenin Prize in 1961 as an award for being an agent, symbolizes the existence of Pakistan and the freedom of Muslims in a negative sense and is not ready to accept the freedom of Pakistan. Perhaps because there is no communist dictatorship in this country.

When Pakistan came into existence, Muslims were certainly happy and they had to be happy because they had obtained their freedom after 200 years. Therefore, every Muslim was proud in 1947. He was celebrating his happiness on the occasion of freedom, for which he was justified. But the progressive writers were ridiculing it and calling it a procession of robbery. Thus, Saheer Ludhiyan says: "This festivity is not a festivity of happiness; it is funny, the procession of robbery has come out in a different costume." (BEST POEMS OF 1947, p 138)

One of his fellow writers, Qateel Shifai, also calls the Muslim League and other leaders of Pakistan robbers who subvert the public against the Muslim League leaders. In his poetic verse, he cautions the people: "Be careful that your belongings are not robbed; beware, the robbers have come again." (QATEEL SHIFAI ROSAM, p 112)

These so-called progressive writers who have been the slaves of the bigger robbers and still are, can be asked, didn't Lenin and Stalin rob the German banks? These people do not accept the Muslim leaders (Muslim League), the Muslims, as human beings; to them, any believer of a religion is outside humanity. So Farigh Bukhari writes: "There came out some Hindus, some Sikhs and some Muslims and out of 40 million, not one turned out to be a human being." (Farigh Bukhari, NAYA DOR, p 101)

Muhammad Safdar Mir (nicknamed Zeeno), whose job was abusing every Muslim leader in the PAKISTAN TIMES and who never felt it a disgrace to attach his own vices to others, would declare the Muslim League and other Muslim leaders as friends of imperialism and seek to avenge them for building Pakistan and make the creation of Pakistan and the freedom of Muslims his target of criticism:

You! who gave death under the mask of freedom,
Associates of imperialism,
So long will this voice be heard.

(from "Revenge Revenge" by Muhammad Safdar Mir,
in SAWERA, No 7, 8)

All these so-called writers state from the very beginning that either Pakistan and India reunite or else there will be a communist revolution. For those who oppose it, they call their struggle a conspiracy. So Jamil Malik writes: "This is our

way, that we light the candles in the dark. Their scheme is that there should always be darkness." (Jamil Malik, in SAWERA, No 13, 14, p 227) Ahmad Faraz calls the existence of Pakistan a well-considered policy and does not view the demands of the common Muslims as right. His thinking is the same as that of the Hindu Congress; he agrees with them and writes: "The separation has come into existence under the well-considered policy of the British imperialists because united India can become a problem for her at any time." (SANGHAIL, No 6, Nov 1949)

These uncouth people have covered themselves in the guise of progressive writers. They are inclined toward the world's greatest imperialists and the enemies of Muslims. The present situation in Pakistan, and those who sow confusion and distraction, are created by these people. In these circumstances, they have to be carefully watched for they have contacts with the Russian KGB and have old relations and connections with its agents. They express that connection in these words: "Our way of thought depends on communist facts. In this struggle we have the leadership of our neighboring country, the Soviet Union." (Mandate, 1949, in SAWERA, No 7, 8, pp 24, 35)

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CSO: 4203/74

PAKISTAN

NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL APPROVES ADP FOR 1981-82

Karachi MORNING NEWS in English 16 Jun 81 pp 1, 8

[Text] Islamabad, June 15: The National Economic Council today approved the annual development programme for the new fiscal 1981-82, it was officially stated here tonight.

The Council's session was chaired by President Gen Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, who heads this body.

The Council also approved the development strategy for the new financial year.

Official sources said the Annual Development Programme for 1981-82 would accord a high priority to development and expansion of the agricultural sector, and progress of the less developed regions of the country.

High priority has also been given to the vital energy sector, as well as social welfare schemes.

The next year's plan has put a high priority also to expansion of industrial production and increasing the exports from Pakistan.

The development outlay for the next year will be eight per cent more than the current fiscal 1980-81, according to official sources.

Basic Feature

The Council also approved the basic features of the annual plan, which calls for "consolidation and augmentation of the Government's efforts towards increasing output, productivity and exports on the one hand, and enforcing a sound financial management on the other," according to an official announcement.

The ADP approved by the NEC was prepared within the framework of the Fifth Five-Year Plan, which covers the period from July 1, 1978, and June 30, 1983, as reiterated in the three-year public sector investment programme.

An official statement said the share of the priority sectors—development of agriculture and rural areas, backward regions, energy, and social services—which has been increased from 50 per cent in 1980-81 to 58 per cent in 1981-82, is going to be significantly higher, because the programmes in the priority sectors will be taken at a much larger scale.

During the new fiscal year, the Government said, the programme has been drawn up with "the firm determination that serious endeavours will be made to step up internal resource mobilisation and to restrain non-essential expenditures to achieve long-range socio-economic objectives of the nation."

An official statement said "The strategy will revolve around relentlessly pursuing the principles of equity, effort and efficiency."

National Economy

Reviewing performance of the national economy during 1980-81, the National Economic Council was informed that the performance marked an encouraging continuation of the trend of recovery witnessed in recent years.

The GDP is estimated to rise 5.7 per cent reflecting improvements in agricultural and industrial output, particularly the bumper wheat crop and sharp increases in the production of sugar and fertilizer.

Export Earnings

The council was informed that the export earnings have increased by 20 per cent about half of which has been derived through larger quantum of exports. Seen in the light of stagnating world trade the national export performance is quite, commendable.

The export of certain products are, however, encountering difficulties due to continuing recession and protectionism in the developed world.

The increase in export earnings has been supplemented by an equally rapid growth in the home remittances.

On the other hand, despite larger payments for protection petroleum products and other manufactures on account of escalation in prices, the import payments have grown at a relatively slower rate during the year.

As a consequence, the balance of payments deficits have been contained and foreign exchange reserves of the country are likely to be built up appreciably.

Investment Outlays

The council was told the investment outlays have increased by 17 per cent in 1980-81 roughly in line with the Annual Plan target of the year.

An increasing proportion of the investment has been financed by the national savings as opposed to net resource inflow from abroad.

The marginal rate of savings of about 14 per cent has been achieved which is creditable in view of the additional expenditures incurred on meeting consumption needs of the Afghan refugees.

Low Saving Rate

The National Economic Council, however, noted that the savings rate in the country is still very low compared to other developing countries with similar income levels. The NEC directed that studies should be conducted to identify measures for improving the national savings.

The Council also discussed development schemes approved by its Executive Committee and the Central Development Working Party during the period of April 1, 1980, to March 31, 1981. It also monitored progress report of the CDWP for this period.

The meeting, lasting nine hours, was attended by the Governors of Punjab, Sind, NWFP and Baluchistan, Federal Ministers for Finance and Economic Affairs, Communications Education, Food, Agriculture and Cooperative, Health and Social Welfare, Housing and Works, Industries, Information and Broadcasting, Labour, Manpower and Overseas Pakistanis Local Government and Rural Development, Petroleum and Natural Resources, Production, Kashmir Affairs and Northern Areas and Water and Power, Governor of State Bank of Pakistan, Finance Ministers of the Punjab, Sind and the NWFP concerned Federal Secretaries, Planning and Development chiefs of the Provincial Governments and heads of autonomous and semi-autonomous organisation.—APP

CSO: 4220/322

ABSENCE OF LABOR POLICY HAS IMPACT ON ECONOMY

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 16 Jun 81 p 2

[Editorial: "Decide Before It Is Too Late:"]

[Text] Absence of any realistic and production-oriented labour policy has started telling upon the economy. Labour being one of the most important factors of production, the need for a clearly defined policy in respect of wages, working conditions, the workers' rights and responsibilities, employers' obligations, etc., cannot be overemphasised. It is almost four years that labour affairs are being governed on ad hoc basis. This has created uncertainty in the minds not only of the employers but also of the employees. Both are unaware as to how they would fare in the new labour policy promised for the last three years to be promulgated soon. It was in 1978 that a tripartite labour commission was set up to make recommendations to the Government for framing a new labour policy. About a year and a half back, the commission submitted its report which was studied and finalised by the authorities last year. We had then pleaded for its immediate promulgation

without putting it to further discussion, particularly by the parties involved, that is the workers and the employers. For, we knew that their points of view were so divergent that a consensus could not be arrived at and there could never be complete harmony of opinion between the two. Since the commission comprised representatives of the Government, employers and the employees, the decisions taken by it must have been based on the larger interests of the country and the maximum possible reconciliation of various interests. But the Government decided to hold another tripartite labour conference to consider the final draft of the policy. As expected, the discussions bogged down and the conference ended by appointing another working group to finalise the principles of a new employer-employee relationship.

There are certain decisions which the Government has to take in the national interest. These

decisions are not always such as can please everybody. But these are to be taken so that society could march on. For a political Government such decisions are difficult to take. But for a Government which has no political ambitions and which has taken over only with a view to restoring sanity in society, it is not difficult to take such unpleasant decisions. The present Government is in an ideal position to take measures which might ultimately prove beneficial to the entire nation. We do agree that it is such a sensitive issue that a labour policy cannot be announced off-hand. But a decision has to be taken, all the same. In this context, when we hear responsible people talking of studying labour policies of other countries and finalising our own policy in the light of others' experience, a feeling of concern is natural. On the one hand we have been trying to accelerate the pace of investment while on the other, we are leaving such an important

issue as labour policy in suspense and thereby generating doubts and apprehensions in the minds of the prospective investors. How can in these conditions entrepreneurs be expected to come forward and take risks?

There are points where no total agreement is possible between the employers and the employees. For instance, the employer wants the restoration of his right of hiring and firing and that on the plea of maximising production. The worker naturally cannot accede to this demand. However, a via media has got to be found so that an unwilling and inefficient worker can be replaced by a willing and efficient one. No employer can ever think of losing an efficient and hardworking hand simply because he does not like his face. This may cost him dearly. Still some sort of job security to the workers is also necessary. Replacement should be allowed with some financial benefits to the dismissed worker so that in the period between his removal and getting a new job, he does not starve. Such an arrangement can be made. Similarly, there are other issues like the composition of trade unions, election of their office bearers, etc., which can be settled if both the parties keep the country's interest above their own and

selfish interests. It is time that the matter was given serious thought and the present state of uncertainty and doubt was brought to an end. For, unless this uncertainty is removed, no acceleration in investment and production is possible and without increased production our economic progress would be impossible. Let us decide before it is too late.

EARNINGS FROM MOLASSES EXPORTS INCREASE

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 17 Jun 81 p 1

[Text]

During the first seven months of the current fiscal year, molasses has emerged as a prominent exchange earner for Pakistan.

Pakistan's export of the item touched the peak of 294,527 tons worth Rs 229.25 million during the period as compared with the value of export of the item at Rs 170.5 million of the last year.

Our exports of molasses in 1978-79 amounted to Rs 229.9 million which declined during the next year by about 18.9 per cent.

In view of comparatively much better sugar season this year, the production of molasses has also increased substantially and it is estimated that around 40,000 metric tons more would be available for export.

The Government is estimated to have recovered a sum of Rs 82.32 million as export duty on the item at the rate of 25 per cent of its export price.

Besides the country has also exported 30,000 metric tons of Khandari molasses as well which is mainly produced on farms.

Increased exports and high prices of molasses at the beginning of the season contributed in significant increase in both export receipts and Government revenues in the form of increased duty.

The FOB Karachi prices of molasses this year were on an average 112 dollars per metric ton. However, a falling trend has now set in the world prices of molasses and these have touched 80 dollars per ton in the first week of June.

The fall in prices is said to be

due to a number of factors, including a strong dollar, increase in prime interest rates in the USA and reduced demand for molasses as cattle feed. The prices are reported to have further declined by about ten dollars and the trend is expected to continue for some time more.

With the prospects for the next sugarcane crop being still brighter, production of molasses is estimated to go as high as 550,000 metric tons next year. Trade circles apprehend that if proper and timely action either for prompt export or for storage facilities is not taken, much of this valuable commodity would be wasted.

It may, however, be mentioned that the world production of molasses is estimated at 20 million tons out of which just six million tons is traded and 14 million tons is domestically consumed or wasted for want of proper storage facilities.

The item is exported by 48 countries of the world in which Pakistan's share is only a little more than five per cent.

COAL BACK IN PRIME ROLE, FILLS ENERGY GAP

Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 12 Jun 81 Supplement pp I & IV

(Text) KING coal, the fuel which fell from grace in the era of cheap and abundant oil and gas supplies, is returning to power. From the situation of an ailing and shrinking industry with bleak outlook in the fifties and sixties, the world coal industry is now a revitalised and buoyant industry, with a promise of unprecedented expansion.

The world is turning back to coal as the 'swing fuel'. It is being termed as the saviour of the world's standard of living. Aided attention is being given to the exploration and development of coal worldwide, recognising its central role. Coal consumption is expected to triple over the next two decades to meet world energy demand. International trade in steam coal alone used in power plants and industrial boilers, would grow to one billion 10 and 15 fold. This new coal boom will have a ripple effect far beyond the mining industry and on a host of other industrial of it will trigger massive movements in transport, ports and ships to transport the fuel and utilities to consume it. It will give rise to new trading patterns, with the U.S., Canada, Australia, China and South Africa emerging as world leaders in coal production and export.

The world's resources of coal

far exceed those of any other energy mineral. Coal, has, therefore, a long-term future both in steel-making and direct thermal power generation and as a source of liquid and gaseous fuels when the reserves of oil and gas begin to wane.

Major factors

The major contributory causes and factors in shaping the future of coal are as follows:

(i) Highlighted, the biggest single factor was the oil shock of 1973, the stunning memories of which still persist in the industrialised world. Oil prices rose four times in 1973, have risen five-fold compared to previous prices and are expected to keep on climbing. On the contrary, coal prices have risen on a much slower rate as compared with oil prices.

(ii) To coal-consuming countries not endowed with significant oil and gas reserves, coal offers growing economic and strategic advantages over oil for electricity generation. Accordingly, there has been growth in the demand for electricity generation.

(iii) International problems connected with the supply of imported oil, highlighted by the oil embargo of 1973 and the events connected with the Islamic Revolution in Iran, which cut off a major source of world oil supply.

(iv) The apprehensions of OPEC members, fearing that they cannot keep on exporting a non-renewable resource till it all dries up. While planning for their own petrochemical industries, they want some of the oil to remain in the country to be used as petrochemical

feedstock in future. This results in output cuts.

(v) Many people still regard nuclear power as uncertain and mysterious. History's worst commercial nuclear power accident at Three Mile Island on March 28, 1979, has become a code word for doubts about the reliability and safety of nuclear power. The accident started a series of events that came close to putting millions of people in the eastern United States in the centre of nuclear disaster.

(vi) World reserves of oil and gas are much smaller than those of coal and are currently being depleted at a much faster rate. Renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, tide and geothermal are incapable of meeting more than a small proportion of energy needs and are not expected to reach the stage of commercial development until at least a decade from now.

(vii) Because of the global energy crisis, which is basically petroleum oriented, new technologies to convert coal to a clean and economical energy source will provide substantial growth opportunities to coal producers.

So, on the international level, coal is destined to play a key role in filling the energy gap for the economic part of this century and possibly beyond. We have now entered an era where both economics and politics are pushing coal onto the energy stage fast. And over the years, a review of world coal prospects would have traced the European coal industries as struggling industries, followed the People's Republic of China as an economic-minded country

world's first general design.

With the increasing production of 1.7 million tonnes, optimization of oil is not being made. It is evident that even if the coal usage is stepped up 10 times during the next decade, the coal reserves could last well into the next century when the existing oil and gas reserves would have dried up.

Coal is a versatile fuel. In addition to its main use for power generation, steel making and domestic heating, it can be converted to liquid and gaseous fuels. Germany, the cradle of this conversion technology, produced liquid fuels from coal during the World War II. With the intensive reconstruction and development work going on around the world there is not far when commercial plants for manufacture of synthetic fuels and petrochemical derivatives from coal will be in operation. If we give due attention to the usage of coal for this aspect, it can help reduce our oil import bill, which is now placed at \$1.5 billion and will keep on floating during the years to come. In fact, the future of oil production in this country will depend on coal when the existing oil reserves get exhausted.

It is remarkable how successful our plans have for OPEC countries have shaped the world energy prospects. And long ago, the conversion of coal into synthetic fuels looked practically impossible. Experts agreed in special circumstances have the secret to the change and conversion technology appears to be an experiment of the new day.

In Pakistan, nuclear power will continue to hold great promise. But this of the new renewable energy, natural gas resources are also of concern in the nation because of its being used as industrial raw material and synthetic natural gas is being made. For power generation, domestic purposes and in transport of such a step that can be significant once alternatives are made and developed it will be exhibited by the next generation. The power are limited and are fast depleting. At the existing rate of depletion, they will hardly last beyond 200 years. New oil reserves are discovered and developed. Natural gas reserves are discovered, which demands good alternative measures, for the production of oil and coal.

Availability of nuclear power on a scale of great concern in Pakistan — which has not forgotten that man's first use of nuclear power was for destructive weapons. Further, the memory of history's worst commercial nuclear accident at Three Mile Island in 1979 which put hundreds of thousands of people in the centre of a nuclear disaster is still vivid in the minds of the people. The essential renewable sources of energy like solar, wind, tidal and geothermal are still in the stage of development and cannot be relied upon for any long-term planning and energy strategy. In water energy, the biggest challenge is to find ways of collecting the sun's relatively low-intensity energy so that it can be converted conveniently to useful thermal or electric energy. The wind energy has a large potential application for remote areas where copper from WAPDA's grid is not possible or practical. Geothermal energy like water energy is an inexhaustible source of energy but geothermal resources of any noteworthy interest have not yet been discovered in Pakistan. Like water, geothermal energy is characterised by its geothermal generating units because of energy gathering problem (i.e., there is a limit to how far the fluid can be moved without exceeding the geothermal gradient of the system). Similarly, the only fluid which looks future for us is coal which, although energy in reserve, is expected to be energy requirements for longer period compared to any other fuel.

Apart from its long-term, coal has proven sources of energy for at present available to all the people which will serve as our oil and gas reserves for some decades. Coal is a major energy and the only is coal.

Many people still regard nuclear power as suspect, even though it is well established as a means of generating power. By contrast, coal is regarded as uncomplicated and familiar. The significant advantage which coal has over atomic power is its well known. Apart from its traditional uses in steel making, power generation and heating, it is expected to be increasingly used for the production of liquid and gaseous fuels in the future. This is of paramount importance for a country like Pakistan where

there is a significant and prolonged need for synthetic fuels to supplement conventional domestic oil and gas production. With the ever-increasing prices of OPEC oil, fuel from oil is expected to become competitive within a period of 2-3 years or a few years. Both nuclear and coal can play major roles in the generation of electricity in Pakistan, but coal's strength presently lies in its variety of uses.

Coal liquefaction

Coal liquefaction currently appears to be the most appealing method of producing a synthetic fuel, since the main product of the process can be used to power engines and fire boilers and furnaces and as a raw stock in chemical processing. Thus coal may fuel tomorrow's car.

There are many processes which have been suggested for converting coal into liquid. But all share a common factor, namely, the necessity to increase the ratio of hydrogen to carbon. There are two main ways in which this can be done, namely, direct and indirect routes. Both have their roots in previous German work, but much technical development has been done since then. The direct route aims at producing some form of synthetic liquid fuel directly in a reactor without the necessity of gasifying the coal followed by subsequent reformation of the gases into a liquid.

Production of fuel by coal gasification is already commercially viable in South Africa as well as in the Federal Republic of Germany. Fluidised bed technology for efficient combustion of highly reactive solids such as lignite as well as for coal with high ash content is also being developed. Underground or in situ coal gasification is also a field which could help in the development of energy in the world as it

can use large coal resources not economically recoverable by current coal mining methods. It also provides an opportunity to convert high sulphur coal into more environmentally acceptable forms of energy. It has certain advantages and disadvantages, but the comparison of these indicates that underground coal gasification offers great promise in special areas

under appropriate conditions. Under ground coal gasification is also an economically viable method for utilizing the deeply dipping coal seams.

To develop new consumption capacity for coal in Pakistan, it must not only be increasing, it used for power generation but also must be processed into more acceptable products, i.e., synthetic fuels in the form of fuel gases and liquids and feedstocks for chemicals and fertilizers. The oil crisis of 1973 and spiraling oil prices bring home to us the fact that we will have to reduce present oil dependence on imported oil. Indigenous oil and natural gas are various competitors of coal and are more economical and convenient as fuel compared to coal. But it is estimated that the resources of these forms of energy will last out by the year 2000 at the rate of present and projected consumption. Even though efforts are being made to locate new oil and gas reserves that may solve the problem.

Thus to cover the domestic energy demands in the future, energy supply must be based on a large extent on hydro-power, coal and nuclear energy, considering that the renewable energy sources can be expected to make only a small supply contribution. Hydro-power will continue to play the central role in the energy supply. Coal in Pakistan has been and is being developed by domestic and foreign efforts. Thus coal will have a major contributing contribution to the national energy supply and demand. It can be said that the present and future of the oil crisis depends on the success of the search for oil and effective methods of production of liquid fuels from coal. The steadily growing requirement of the national oil companies in coal in Pakistan is Australia is a good indicator to this.

The assessment of the national energy supply and demand situation shows it is imperative to expand coal production and coal use to reduce dependence on imported oil. The oil crisis of the early 1970s is a wake up call for the oil crisis of the early 1970s.

safeguard energy supplies. The urgent adoption of the following plan is stressed:

(a) INVESTMENT PROMOTION:

This measure demands massive upsurge of investments in coal production. The investments can be promoted by loans at reduced rates of interest to provide a real stimulus to expansion. Also adequate incentives should be given to encourage the coal mining industry to develop new coal mines, expand production and provide infrastructure.

(b) CONSUMPTION CAPACITY:

At present, coal use is limited mainly to brick kilns. Substitution of coal for oil is an urgent necessity. To diversify and accelerate this existing oil burning plants must be converted to coal and new coal burning capacity created. This can be particularly to nuclear units in which in the past coal was replaced by oil or gas. Government incentives and support should be provided to encourage investment in coal fired plants.

(c) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT:

The R & D work in the coal mining industry must be vigorously pursued and expanded. This applies equally to coal mining techniques, coal extraction, coal processing and new technologies such as fluidised bed combustion which is a particularly efficient and clean method of converting coal to power. In addition, it has the advantage that it can be used in nearly all areas of the market for heat production, gasification and liquefaction.

The oil shock of 1973 and subsequent escalation of oil prices has caused a worldwide appraisal of the energy scene. For Pakistan, as well as economic reasons, it has become necessary for oil dependent nations to reduce their dependence on oil. Pakistan is no exception. The option of nuclear power cannot be overlooked. However, nuclear power has been brought to a considerable slowdown out of concern for its safety. Coal assumes a role of unprecedented importance worldwide. Pakistan is no exception.

But to find and develop new coal resources presents a challenge which has to be met. The only way Pakistan can reduce its heavy dependence on imported energy supplies during the next few decades and into the next century is that along with the development of wind and nuclear energy resources, coal should be given equal priority, so that the country is able to produce and use an increasing amount of coal. Investment in coal exploration and development should be on a par with that of oil and gas. The country's dependence on oil for energy, which is going to be increasingly expensive and scarce in future.

Action is required now because creation of new energy capacity can take long times — up to a decade — to come to fruition. Coal supply in India and abroad will be determined by what happens today. We have to prepare for the time when oil and gas reserves run low. Research into coal liquefaction and gasification at the international level should be started and R & D work on Pakistan coal carried out to prepare for the time when the use of synthetic fuels in coal plants. On the social economic front the widespread distribution of coal should tend to spread both the benefits and profits of coal production around the nation.

LARGE COAL DEPOSITS NEAR THATTA EXPLOITED

Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 17 Jun 81 p 1

[Text] A large quantity of coal reserve has been exploited near village Sondha in Thatta district, recently, which will meet the energy requirements of the country for the next so many years.

It was informed during a presentation held in connection with the Mineral Development Programme of Sind, at the Sind Assembly Building in Karachi yesterday Ashraf W. Tabani, Provincial Minister for Industries and Mineral Development, presided.

The addition of this new coal reserve to the existing coal fields of Lakhra (Dadu) and Jhampir (Thatta) will help make Sind, the leading coal producing province in the country.

The exploitation of this coal field was started by the Geological Survey of Pakistan about a month ago and according to the preliminary exploration reports, superior quality coal has been found in the Sondha coal field. The Geological Survey of Pakistan was continuing the drilling work to determine the size and quantity of the coal reserves.

The Minister was told that the Lakhra coal fields in Dadu district were spread over 90 square miles, having 30 million tonnes of proved coal reserves. The Geological Survey of Pakistan has estimated the coal reserves in the Lakhra coal fields at 240 million tonnes. Besides, the other coal field at Jhampir in Thatta district have 28 million tonnes of proved coal reserves.

It was told that a very big quantity of granite reserves have been found in Nagarparkar area in Tharparkar district. The reserves identified by the Geological Survey of Pakistan are of rare qualities having yellow grey and pink colours.

PROPOSALS

The Sind Minister for Mineral Development asked the concerned authorities to prepare proposals for development of the granite reserves, its proper utilisation and facilities in the area in this connection.

Tabani said that adequate measures were being taken to improve the working of the Mineral Development Wing of the Directorate of Industries, Sind. In this connection, two regional offices of Mineral Development Wing are being opened at Hyderabad and Sukkur.

The strengthening of the Mineral Development Wing, the Minister said will help provide necessary facilities to the persons engaged in this sector, in the province and supervise the working of the field staff.

It was informed that the Sind province have 29 known minerals, which include, six surface minor minerals and 23 major minerals.

The Mineral Development Wing has earned an amount of Rs. 15 million through royalties of the 29 known minerals, in the Sind province during 1980-81. The 85 per cent of income from royalties of six surface minor minerals is being given to the District Council of the area, concerned.

Regarding collection of royalty, the Minister was told that the Mineral Development Wing was adopting a new mechanism from the next financial year. Accord-

ing to the new arrangements the royalty collection rights of coal mines in the province will be auctioned, which will help improve the collection of royalties.

The Minister was told that the Mineral Development Wing was doing twenty-five different regulatory and development functions in the province.

The presentation was attended among others by the Director Industries and Mineral Development, Sind and other senior officers of the department.

BRIEFS

DRASTIC CUT IN LUXURY GOODS URGED--The need for bringing about a balance between the imports and exports and eliminating trade imbalances was expressed at a pre-budget symposium held at the Pakistan National Centre here last evening. In his presidential address, Dr. Mohammed Uzair, economic consultant to the Investment Corporation of Pakistan (ICP), highlighted the importance of a well-balanced and self-sufficiency in wheat production for the first time. This was a very hopeful development and reflected the progress made in the agricultural sector. However, progress in the field of industrial growth was far from satisfactory. He suggested that the government should take immediate steps to help the "sick" industrial units. New industries should also be set up to increase production of manufactured goods and reduce the need for imports. It would also reduce unemployment and save the precious foreign exchange. Dr. Uzair called for a drastic reduction in the import of luxury goods in order to reduce the gap between exports and imports. [Text] [Karachi BUSINESS RECORDER in English 17 Jun 81 p 1]

ADB AID FOR GYPSUM PRODUCTION--Tokyo, June 12: The Asian Development Bank has granted technical assistance to Pakistan which will assist in trebling its annual gypsum production over a period of five years, it was announced by the bank yesterday. The bank's assistance grant will help formulate a project to establish additional facilities for gypsum mining near Daudkhel under which the current production of 500,000 tons a year will be tripled to one and a half million tons a year. Gypsum is used in the manufacture of cement, paper, glass, plaster for wall and ceiling coverings and also to improve the soil condition. [Excerpt] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 13 Jun 81 p 4]

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FREEDOM, COMMUNIST, SOCIALIST PARTIES TO FORM COMMON FRONT

Kuala Lumpur BUSINESS TIMES in English 8 May 81 p 6

[Article by Clarence Fernando in Colombo]

[Excerpts]

FORMER Sri Lanka Prime Minister Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, expelled from Parliament and stripped of her civic rights for seven years, says she is confident that her Freedom Party will regain power.

But the next general election is not due until 1983, and Mrs Bandaranaike, 66, must first regain control of her left-of-centre party.

For the first time since she succeeded her murdered husband, Mr Solomon Bandaranaike, to become the world's first woman prime minister 21 years ago, she was defeated in a vote in the party executive committee early in April.

Party sources said Mrs Bandaranaike took the committee's decision to contest regional elections next June "very badly." She quickly reasserted her authority over the party and by the end of the month the 18-member politburo had reversed the decision.

In an interview with Reuters, Mrs Bandaranaike admitted there were differences within the party but said these were highly exaggerated by the government-controlled Press and radio. "Maybe, our party is too democratic," she said.

Mrs Bandaranaike,

who was voted out of office in 1977, was stripped of her civil rights last October after a presidential commission of three senior Judges found her guilty of abuse of power when she was Prime Minister.

"This was utter vindictiveness," she said.

Under Sri Lankan law, she cannot contest a seat or vote in parliamentary or local elections. She cannot even address election meetings or canvass support for her party candidates.

Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who returned to power triumphantly last year, was similarly expelled from Parliament when she was in opposition, also for alleged abuse of power.

"They sent her to jail twice but they did not strip her of her civic rights. In my case, I was hit below the belt," Mrs Bandaranaike said, adding that she and Mrs Gandhi were writing to each other.

In the hour-long interview at her Colombo home, Mrs Bandaranaike said her party would not contest the forthcoming

regional elections because of the "undemocratic actions" by the government and ruling United National Party (UNP) of President Junius Jayewardene.

The UNP, which has 164 members in the 166-seat National Assembly, is certain to secure a majority in almost all the 34 development councils being set up.

Each district council will consist of local Members of Parliament and of other councillors to be elected on June 4 and whose number will not be more than that of the legislators.

"Even if we received 100 per cent of the votes, we would still be in a minority," said Mrs Bandaranaike whose Freedom Party has only seven members in the National Assembly.

Sri Lanka's Communist Party and the Trotskyist Lanka Socialist Party, both former government allies of Mrs Bandaranaike, have also decided to boycott the regional elections.

Mrs Bandaranaike said the main aim of her party and these two parties was to form a common front to fight the UNP at the next general election.

She said her party's 600,000 members would now be mobilised to fight the 1983 election and that

inflation and unemployment would be two major issues.

She said the government had opened the doors to the "robber barons of the multi-nationals" and was tied to the apron strings of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

But whether Mrs Bandaranaike can realistically hope to make a political comeback largely depends on her ability to keep her party together.

The Freedom Party won 26 per cent of the votes cast in the 1977 election against 51 per cent for the UNP.

She has accused some of her party colleagues of being in step with the UNP and said she had proof they were conspiring against her.

A party spokesman said she made the accusations at a party meeting last month. But she has so far taken no action against the dissidents.

Party sources said some party senior officials and rank-and-file members feel Mrs Bandaranaike should step down to make way for another leader, possibly her 34-year-old son, Anura.

But they said most party supporters felt that for the time being, only Mrs Bandaranaike could lead the party to an election victory.

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